

'14 Americans missing in Kuwait'

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is investigating the possibility that as many as 14 Americans who work for U.S. oil companies in Kuwait were missing Friday as Iraqi troops strengthened their hold on the country, a U.S. official said. "We think there may be more... another six missing," the official said. "We think there may be more... another six missing," the official said. "We think there may be more... another six missing," the official said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Ceasefire agreed in Shi'ite battles

SIDON (R) — Rival Shi'ite militias fighting over a village in South Lebanon agreed to a ceasefire Friday to allow the Red Cross to remove bodies from the streets. The ceasefire was agreed between the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the pro-Iranian Hizbollah, the Syrian-backed Amal, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which has been helping Amal in 18 days of inter-Shi'ite battles. Hospital sources said 92 corpses, those of 17 Hizbollah and 75 Amal and Palestinian fighters, were to be removed from the streets of the southern village of Jarjouch. Hizbollah captured Jarjouch, in the Iqlim Al Tufah district some 18 kilometres north of the Israeli border, early on in street-to-street battles. More than 200 people have been killed and 500 wounded in the inter-Shi'ite fighting for the control of a string of southern villages. The militias have fought on and off over the past three years, killing some 1,100 people.

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King announces mini-summit, says foreign intervention could be devastating Iraqi, Kuwaiti leaders to meet at Jeddah summit

Combined agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein said Friday a mini Arab summit was scheduled to be held Sunday in Saudi Arabia on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti situation and a senior Saudi official was quoted as saying that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and other Arab leaders were expected to attend the meeting.

be terrible and devastating," the King told Jordan Television.

"Our contacts were fruitful and as a result, we agreed to hold an emergency mini-summit in Saudi Arabia Sunday," the Monarch said of his efforts to defuse the crisis.

The King did not say which Arab leaders will attend the mini-summit, but he noted that the meeting will discuss the "situation in the Arab Gulf region."

In an urgent news dispatch, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the emergency Arab summit will discuss "keeping the Kuwait-Iraq dispute within an Arab framework, and containing the conflict by solving all its causes in a way that will benefit the Arab Nation and its higher interests."

reporters and in an address to hundreds of Kuwaitis gathered outside a hotel where Arab foreign ministers were due to meet later in the day.

The Kuwaiti envoy said the four leaders were in touch to find a way of achieving the withdrawal of Iraqi forces.

"Kuwait is still in good shape and the Emir in good health," Awadi told the crowd outside the hotel.

Kuwaitis gathered outside the Cairo hotel chanted: "Where is the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)? Where is the Peninsula Shield?"

The GCC maintains a joint defence force numbering 2,000 known as the Peninsula Shield. A small number of Kuwaitis clashed at the hotel entrance with police equipped with electric cattle prods.

The official UAE news agency WAM said in a separate report that King Fahd and UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al

Awadi made the remarks to reporters before the statement was issued, said Moscow had been assured Baghdad was going to pull its troops out of Kuwait soon.

"We've had contacts at various levels and been assured that very soon the Iraqis will pull out their troops," he said.

He said it had been difficult for Moscow to condemn Baghdad "inasmuch as we have had good and longstanding relations with

Iraq to begin conditional withdrawal from Sunday

Combined agency dispatches

BAGHDAD — Iraq said Friday it planned to start withdrawing its troops from Kuwait Sunday as long as no threats emerged to Kuwaiti and Iraqi security.

"A plan has been laid down to start withdrawing Iraqi troops from Kuwait according to a timetable as of Sunday, unless something appears which could threaten the security of Kuwait and Iraq," a spokesman for the Revolution Command Council said.

He ruled out any return of the ruling Al Sabah family.

"No return to the extinct regime after the sun of dignity and honour has shone," he said.

The spokesman did not say how long the withdrawal was expected to take or how many troops had been involved in the invasion before dawn Thursday.

"We affirm that what we have done as regards the withdrawal, does not mean that we are responding to the rhetoric that was issued here and there," he said.

"We are doing this out of our adherence to our principles which conform... with the duty that has been discharged by our forces,"

the Iraqi spokesman said on television.

He said any power, "big or small and of whatever colour," that tried to harm Kuwait or Iraq would be "confronted with a firm stance that would cut the arm from the shoulder."

The present and future relationship between Iraq and Kuwait would be defined by the peoples of the two countries, he said.

Earlier Friday, sporadic fighting was reported from Kuwait as Iraqi troops sought to consolidate their positions in the country, Gulf based diplomats dismissed

reports that Iraqi troops were near the Saudi-Kuwaiti border.

"The Iraqis are nowhere near the Saudi border," said the official quoted by Reuters. "Kuwaiti oil installations are also far away from Saudi Arabia. They are just consolidating their positions inside Kuwait," added the official, who was not identified in the Nicosia-dated dispatch.

The Associated Press reported that an Iraqi missile exploded early Friday on Saudi territory adjacent to the neutral zone shared by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, where the borders of the two (Continued on page 4)

Arab foreign ministers condemn Iraq despite strong Jordanian warning

CAIRO (Agencies) — Arab foreign ministers Friday condemned the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait and called on Iraq to immediately and unconditionally withdraw its forces to the borders from its Gulf neighbour despite a call by Jordan to leave the issue to a mini Arab summit expected to be held in Jeddah Sunday and a warning that a resolution by the foreign ministers could undermine prospects for the Jeddah summit.

The endorsement of the call came with 14 members of the 22-member Arab League voting in favour, while five — Jordan, Sudan, Mauritania, Yemen and the Palestine Li-

beration Organisation — expressing reservations, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The foreign ministers' meeting also called for an extraordinary Arab summit, stressing the need to "respect the sovereignty of the members of the Arab League and regional peace," Petra said.

In an address to the meeting earlier, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem emphasised that "national duty demands that the Arab leaders be given a summit-level chance to resolve the issues in consultation among themselves, particularly

that it is now possible to hold a mini-Arab summit in Jeddah on Sunday as His Majesty King Hussein announced upon his return from Iraq Friday."

Qasem urged his counterparts at the meeting "to facilitate the efforts of Arab leaders in a manner not to aggravate and compound the situation," Petra said.

"I would not have been late to your meeting had it not been for His Majesty's request to me to remain with him while he was discussing the issue with Arab leaders," said Qasem, who accompanied the King on a visit to Baghdad for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hus-

sein earlier in the day.

Qasem said Jordan, from the very beginning, had launched efforts to mediate the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute not because it wanted to satisfy "this brother or that brother" but because it was firm in its belief that the issue should be settled in an Arab framework without any foreign intervention.

He said if the meeting was to adopt a resolution (as was adopted later) "there would be no summit (in Jeddah) and such a situation would encourage foreign forces and facilitate the way for foreign intervention..."

Meeting postponed

AMMAN (J.T.) — A meeting of the joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee, due to begin in Damascus this week has been postponed until another date to be announced later in light of the situation in the region following the Iraqi-Kuwaiti flare-up, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

Indonesian minister arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — The Indonesian minister of state for women affairs arrived in Amman Friday on a four-day visit to the Kingdom upon an invitation from Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of Jordan Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) board of trustees. The Indonesian minister will meet several Jordanian officials and women leaders and will discuss with them the development of the role of women in the world in general, and in Jordan and Indonesia in particular.

UAE leader arrives home

ABU DHABI (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan returned on Friday after talks with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd about Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The official UAE news agency WAM said they "discussed with great concentration the Arab and Islamic developments, especially the events between Iraq and Kuwait. They agreed on the need to contain the Kuwait-Iraq dispute as soon as possible through means that will guarantee mutual respect and head off threats to Arab solidarity."

Bonn warns of nuclear use in Gulf

BONN (R) — West Germany's aid minister has said Iraq's invasion of Kuwait threatened to explode into a regional conflict in which nuclear or chemical weapons might be used. "This invasion threatens world peace," Juergen Warnke, minister for economic cooperation, said in a statement. He said the U.N. Security Council should try immediately to get Iraq to withdraw its troops. "Otherwise the Iraqi invasion poses the danger of the dam breaking and an era of South-South conflict beginning. The fact that those involved have nuclear and chemical weapons means there is the threat on an extremely grave worldwide setback," he said. Horst Ehmke, defence spokesman for the opposition social democrats, urged the United Nations, the United States and the Soviet Union to intervene to prevent the conflict spreading to involve Israel.

Superpowers join forces to assail Iraq, call arms embargo

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union and the United States urged the world Friday to halt all arms deliveries to Iraq following its take-over of Kuwait.

"Today, the governments of the Soviet Union and the United States are taking the unusual step of directly calling on the international community to join us in suspending all arms deliveries to Iraq," said a joint statement read by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The statement was issued at a Moscow airport after rapid consultations between Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The statement denounced the Iraqi action as "crude" and urged governments not only to condemn it but also to take "practical steps" against Baghdad.

"Governments that engage in flagrantly aggressive behaviour must know that the world community cannot and will not tolerate it," it said.

"The Soviet Union and the United States call on Iraq to withdraw its armed forces from Kuwaiti territory... the sovereignty and integrity of Kuwait should be restored."

Baker cut short a visit to Mongolia to make the brief stopover in the Soviet capital. Earlier this

week, he and Shevardnadze held two days of talks in the Siberian city of Irkutsk.

Shevardnadze, speaking to reporters before the statement was issued, said Moscow had been assured Baghdad was going to pull its troops out of Kuwait soon.

"We've had contacts at various levels and been assured that very soon the Iraqis will pull out their troops," he said.

He said it had been difficult for Moscow to condemn Baghdad "inasmuch as we have had good and longstanding relations with

U.S. alerts NATO to Gulf 'contingency plans'

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — The United States Friday alerted its North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies that it is "considering contingency actions" if Iraqi troops push beyond Kuwaiti territory, an alliance source said.

"The United States informed the allies that it was aware that Iraq may have designs beyond Kuwait and informed the allies that it has drawn up contingency plans of action to respond to that eventuality," said the source, who demanded anonymity.

He said American officials did not explain what actions were under consideration.

They made their remarks during a special meeting of NATO's political committee, which is made up of top officials from each of the alliance's 16 member nations.

During the meeting, he said, the allies expressed "very strongly broad support for moving towards some coordinated action" through the United Nations. There was a sense, he said, that the allies were prepared to move quickly.

NATO's political committee, which meets regularly, held a special meeting Thursday to discuss the Iraqi invasion and was expected to do so again Monday.

President George Bush returned to the White House early Friday.

France will station two warships in the Gulf because of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, acting Premier Pierre Berégovoy said Friday.

One of the warships, a Corvette, already was stationed in the Gulf, and France will send another to join it, Berégovoy said in a radio interview.

France had planned to replace one ship with the other, said Berégovoy, who is finance minister but acting head of government while Prime Minister Michel Rocard is on vacation.

More countries freeze Kuwaiti assets in line with U.S. call

LONDON (Agencies) — West Germany and Japan Friday joined U.S.-led economic sanctions against Iraq, saying they would effectively freeze Kuwaiti assets in their countries to keep them out of Baghdad's hands.

The European Community (EC) and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) prepared to consider calls for broader trade embargoes and freezing of Iraqi assets after Iraq's take-over of its neighbour Thursday, which gave Baghdad control of 20 per cent of the world's oil.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Taiso Watanabe said in Tokyo the government issued the instructions, called "administrative guidance," to banks and securities firms in response to a request from the Kuwaiti government. He said Japan would consider

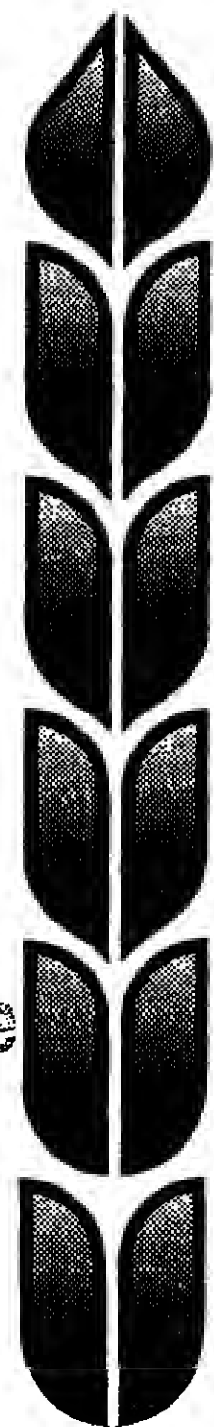
taking further measures after de-liberations for all shipments to Iraq, both of military and civilian goods, he said, specifically mentioning helicopters and machinery.

Italy and Belgium said they would freeze Kuwaiti assets and Switzerland, stopping short of a freeze, asked its banks to vet carefully any withdrawals of Kuwaiti funds — adding strength in numbers to steps taken by the United States, Britain and France.

The Dutch government has frozen export credits to both Iraq and Kuwait and said it was considering banning tankers carrying Iraqi crude oil from entering the port of Rotterdam.

The EC will consider steps on Saturday that could include freezing all Iraqi assets.

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History of tension behind Iraqi move

NICOSIA (R) — Thirty years ago Iraqi troops were already poised on the border with newly independent Kuwait.

On Thursday they entered Kuwait to back demands for land, money and oil which Baghdad said its neighbour had stolen.

No sooner had Kuwait become independent in 1961 than Iraq claimed the emirate as its own, saying that the former British protectorate had been an integral part of Basra province under the Ottoman empire.

Baghdad massed its troops on the border but withdrew when Britain objected. A British expeditionary force was sent in to support the new state and two years later Iraq formally recognised Kuwait's independence and sovereignty.

But the border dispute remained and, in 1967 and 1973, Iraq occupied small areas of northern Kuwait.

At the heart of the current dispute is the Rumailah oilfield which straddles the border and from which Iraq says Kuwait has stolen \$2.4 billion worth of oil.

The world's powers have fought for centuries over the riches of the strategically important Gulf, a trading route stretching back 5,000 years.

Of the 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) six are located round the Gulf — Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The first oil well was dug in southern Iran around 500 B.C. but it was only in 1908 that crude was struck there in commercial quantities.

On the western, Arab side of the Gulf, the first commercial well gushed oil in Bahrain in 1932 and in Saudi Arabia in 1938. Kuwait's vast oil resources were only developed from 1946.

Commerce through the waterway can be traced back some 5,000 years when the states of Mesopotamia — the fertile crescent between the Euphrates and Tigris, modern Iraq — traded with countries to the south and east.

Bahrain, now generally recognised as the site of the ancient Dilmun civilisation, was a centre of urban life through the millennia, a trading link between the Sumerians of Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley in modern Pakistan.

Trading, fishing and pearling were the livelihood of urban settlements established around

oases of Sweet water and date palms in the edge of the vast Arabian desert.

Sumerian lore named Dilmun as a paradise, possibly the origin of the Biblical garden of Eden.

Gulf pearls were famous in the days of Alexander the Great, whose death at Babylon — close to modern Baghdad — at the age of 32 in 323 B.C. ended a dream of world conquest that had already carried him across Persia to the Indus River.

Persian trade with China through the Gulf is recorded as early as the fourth century A.D.

The advent of Islam in the seventh century brought a new religious and political dimension to the region. The split between the Sunni and Shi'ite sects produced tensions and aggravated racial divisions between the Arabs and Persians that have lasted to the present day.

The seafaring powers of the West first penetrated the Gulf with the arrival of the Portuguese in the 16th century. Hormuz Island, strategically located on the strait at the mouth of the Gulf, was fortified as Portugal extended its reach to Goa and the Far East.

The Portuguese moved to Muscat but evacuated Oman in 1650 to be followed by growing rivalry between the British and Dutch.

Britain became the dominant external force as it consolidated its power in India. In 1818, it sent expeditions against pirate headquarters at Ras Al Khaimah and other havens along the pirate coast.

Britain remained a major influence in the Gulf for a further 150 years until its military withdrawal in the late 1960s brought independence to the Arab emirates.

Oman, guarding the western side of the Strait of Hormuz, was itself a dominant maritime power in the 17th and early 18th centuries, with an empire stretching down the East African coast to Zanzibar and commerce to India and beyond.

It also has a long history of relations with the United States, which now has major military facilities on Masirah Island off Oman's Arabian Sea coast.

Oman was the first Arab country to send a diplomatic representative to the United States, along with a cargo of trade goods in 1840.

'Iraq is no Panama or Grenada for the U.S.'

By Charles Aldinger
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military has virtually no option to drive Iraq's forces from Kuwait short of a bloody, unpalatable conflict involving thousands of troops, according to defence experts.

"That kind of U.S. commitment isn't going to happen," said Barry Blechman of the Johns Hopkins Foreign Policy Institute. "The Iraqi invasion was so successful that diplomatic and financial pressure is the only route to push the Iraqis home."

He and other military analysts told Reuters that movement of the U.S. aircraft carrier Independence to the

northern Arabian Sea hundreds of miles south of Kuwait appeared to be public muscle-flexing at best.

They said President George Bush might later move several thousand American troops to Saudi Arabia as a warning to Iraq, but cautioned against quickly entering a conflict which could be prolonged and costly.

"The worst thing we could do right now would be to drop a couple of thousand paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division into Kuwait. A lot of them would die," said James Blackwell of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

And it would do little good for U.S. navy and air force bombers to attack Baghdad,

added Helmut Sonnenfeldt of the Brookings Institution, because Iraq showed in its eight-year war with Iran that it would be unmoved by such hardship.

Sonnenfeldt said Bush had taken important steps in cutting off trade with Iraq, freezing Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets in the United States and in calling on other nations to gang up economically on Baghdad for "naked aggression."

"What we must do is to convince other Arab states that it is not a foregone conclusion that they ought to succumb to (Iraqis) desire to lead the Arab World," said Sonnenfeldt.

U.S. Defence Department officials, who asked not to be identified, admitted that

roundtrip bombing raids of more than 1,280 kilometres against Iraq from the Independence would be difficult and dangerous against hundreds of Iraqi fighters and Soviet-built missiles.

They said using navy bombers from the aircraft carrier Eisenhower in the Mediterranean or air force bombers from Western Europe would be even more difficult.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"Iraq is not Grenada or Panama," said Blackwell. "I doubt the American people are ready to support aircraft losses and hundreds of casualties — especially if it doesn't

get Iraq out right away." Blackwell and Blechman said some U.S. military moves short of attack might include sending a U.S. army "training brigade" of about 5,000 men to Saudi Arabia, ostensibly to improve training of the Saudi National Guard.

"You could also fly F-111B bombers from Western Europe to incite airbase in Turkey where they could be on standby in a training exercise," said Blackwell. "That would keep the pressure on Iraq and let our friends in the region know that we were at least ready to move."

But John Pike, who follows defence issues closely for the American Federation of Scientists, said that the Iraqi military — one million strong and har-

dened by eight years of war with Iran — probably would not be intimidated.

He said a 1986 raid against Libya by navy bombers from aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean and U.S. air force F-111 bombers based in Britain was successful because defences were not good and Libyan forces were ill-trained.

"A slap on the wrist in Libya was enough to shut (Libyan leader Muammar) Qaddafi up for a long time," said Pike. "You're not going to get that effect in Iraq overnight."

In April 1986, the U.S. aircraft bombed military installations and suspected guerrilla bases in Tripoli and Benghazi after Washington accused Libya of supporting international terrorism.

Kuwait Sheraton turns Iraqi headquarters

KUWAIT (AP) — Iraqi troops have adopted the Sheraton Hotel in a Kuwait suburb as their headquarters, according to the government buildings they seized earlier Thursday for the hotel's more comfortable lodgings.

Much has changed overnight in this capital since tank-led Iraqi troops crossed the border 130 kilometres away before dawn Thursday. Iraq issued a statement in Baghdad saying the troops were in Kuwait at the request of a revolutionary council.

Most people here seemed unaware what revolutionary council had called for their government's ouster.

Scenes from the occupied city Thursday bordered on the bizarre.

— In one area of the city, about 30 Kuwaitis stood patiently in line, waiting to rent videocas-

sette movies for the night. The reason, in the words of one woman, was that most residents were staying at home "sitting tight."

— Many Kuwait autos have been left in the streets, some not even parked but merely abandoned as if the drivers saw the approaching troops and fled. Road and sidewalks in parts of the city have been damaged and churned up by the hundreds of tanks that entered Kuwait.

— Some of the Iraqi troops drove around the capital in confiscated Kuwaiti police cars.

— At a circular intersection, Iraqi troops milled about, sitting, eating and talking; rocket-launchers stood nearby. About 100 soldiers meandered about outside the Sheraton Hotel.

The troops outside the hotel appeared "relaxed disciplined

and good humoured," reported a correspondent for the Financial Times of London. "They refrained from looting, and joked with the civilians..."

"They shared water and cigarettes with those they had rounded up, and treated a Kuwaiti soldier who was bleeding heavily from a bullet wound."

— In downtown Kuwait the streets were largely deserted, with none of the usual bustle of taxis and buses. Only in the suburbs did local residents dare to go outside for long, though some were still fearful of further incidents with the Iraqi forces. Life in the suburbs however seemed basically normal.

— The only sign of domestic unrest was spot panic-buying in the supermarkets, where residents shopped quickly.

— The London newspaper the

Guardian Friday quoted Abdulla Al Nihari, a reporter with Kuwait's Al Talia magazine, as giving this account:

"We didn't realise what was going on until 6 a.m. (0900 GMT Thursday) when a statement was made by the defence department. After that, there was mass panic with people ringing their relatives to see if everything was all right."

In the city centre, Iraqi troops were stationed at key government offices, including the defence and information ministries, the Central Bank and the National Assembly.

"Some soldiers were being driven around in buses. Policemen were telling people not to go to certain areas and redirecting traffic..."

"Helicopters have been hovering over all the city, especially the residential areas..."

News blackout on Kuwait angers Gulf Arabs

CAIRO (R) — Gulf Arabs are angry and frustrated at their leader's failure to inform them about the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait.

"How can they do that in the late 20th century when a fellow state has been invaded? What do they think they are going to achieve?" asked a resident of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

UAE radio and television had still not mentioned Thursday's pre-dawn invasion by noon Friday. Along with Kuwait, the UAE is accused by Iraq of undermining world oil prices by over-producing.

"I almost cried when we were told not to report the invasion," said a journalist working for a Gulf television station who declined to be identified.

In contrast, Cairo's press was outspoken in criticising the inva-

sion of Kuwait by Egypt's close ally Iraq. The semi-official Al-Ahram newspaper chose blood-red ink for its banner headline, "A terrifying Arab disaster."

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia appealed for calm on the day of the invasion.

Many Gulf Arabs first heard of the invasion from foreign radio stations.

"Scores of people poured in when they heard the BBC report," a UAE restaurant owner who had his radio on at the time said.

News-hungry Gulf residents flocked to major hotels equipped with international television and news agency teletype services when the story broke.

Gulf newspapers finally front-paged the news Friday, 24 hours after Iraqi tanks rolled into

Kuwait.

"We were given the go-ahead late last night," one newspaper editor said.

But in Bahrain, state radio was still ignoring the invasion Friday.

In Saudi Arabia media reaction was confused. On Thursday night, television carried a long interview with the Kuwaiti ambassador in Washington who described the Iraqi invasion and appealed for help.

But on Friday, Saudi newspapers merely reported that King Fahd was concerned to reduce tension between Kuwait and Iraq, still without stating the cause.

One Saudi television report showed Kuwait's ruling Al Sabah family, who fled the invasion, "visiting" the kingdom but did

not say why they were there.

None of Kuwait's Gulf allies — Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain — have condemned the invasion or threatened counter-action despite being linked in a joint defence pact.

"This is the blackest day in the history of Arabs... it returns them to the early days of jahiliya (the age of barbarism) when the sword ruled and the spilling of blood was the way to solve problems," Cairo's Al-Ahram commented.

Saeed Sonbol, columnist of Egypt's mass-circulation Al-Akhar, wrote, "It is strange that at a time when we call to end the Arab-Israeli conflict peacefully, we seek to solve the Kuwaiti-Iraqi dispute using military force."

Rafsanjani escaped attacks — Pahlavi

PARIS (AP) — The son of the toppled Shah of Iran claimed that Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani escaped at least two assassination attempts, the latest while visiting victims of the June earthquake, a French newspaper has reported.

In an interview with Le Figaro newspaper, Reza Pahlavi also condemned the French decision to pardon the convicted gunman responsible for the 1980 assassination attempt of the Shah's late prime minister, Shahpour Bakhtiari. A policeman and a neighbour were killed in the failed assassination.

He noted that the date of the pardoning of Anis Naccache, July 27, coincided with the 10th anniversary of the death of his father, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, in Cairo.

The young Pahlavi, who has

crowned himself as the new shah but lives in exile in the United States and France, said he believed Rafsanjani truly represented a moderate tendency seeking an economic opening to the West.

He claimed that Rafsanjani escaped at least two attacks, the latest following his visit to north-west provinces struck by the June 20 earthquake. "I am sure of my sources," the newspaper quoted him as saying.

"As he was about to take the plane back to Tehran, after visiting the scene of the catastrophe, his entourage was warned by a mysterious phone call that it would be better not to take the scheduled plane. He did well, because 20 minutes later the plane exploded in flight," Le Figaro quoted him as saying.

Israel okays \$500m housing plan

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli cabinet has agreed to import 20,000 trailers and prefabricated homes to try to ease a housing shortage caused by the immigration of thousands of Soviet Jews.

The plan was proposed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as a compromise to end a battle between Housing Minister Ariel Sharon and Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai.

A Sharon proposal, which would have cost \$13.5 billion over the next five years, was opposed as too costly by Modai.

The cabinet approved the import of 9,000 prefabricated homes and 5,000 house trailers, with an additional 6,000 trailers to be imported by the private sector.

Absorption Minister Yitzhak Peretz put the price of the plan at \$500 million.

Tourism Minister Gideon Patt said the cabinet decision would solve the problems of the hundreds of homeless young Israeli couples pushed out of their apart-

ments by the housing crunch.

The influx of over 66,000 Soviet Jews since January has almost exhausted available housing and pushed rents up. More than 80,000 others are expected to arrive by the end of the year.

According to Sharon, Israel will need 550,000 new housing units in the next five years for Israeli families and an estimated one million immigrants.

However, government construction plans have been delayed for months by bureaucratic red tape and political infighting.

Sharon said earlier this week that only 600 housing units had been started among the 45,000 units approved by the government.

Sharon, who also heads a committee responsible for settling the new immigrants, told Israel television he was pleased with the cabinet decision.

"I think we have a clear message here to hundreds of thousands of Jews in the Soviet

Union that says... the government, after all the difficulties, is about to solve the problem," he said.

However, Yaakov Lifshitz, director-general of the finance ministry, said Thursday's decision would endanger Israel's economy by increasing both the country's deficit and unemployment.

"I don't know where the money will come from," he said.

Sharon originally proposed buying locally or importing 50,000 house trailers and 40,000 prefabricated homes. Of these 3,000 trailers and 20,000 prefabs would be bought immediately as part of an emergency package that also included renovating 8,500 government-owned apartments.

Modai proposed a counter plan encouraging the private sector to import 15,000 prefabricated homes, of which 3,000 would be financed by the government.

Carbomb

kills 7, wounds 100 in Tyre

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Seven people were killed and more than 100 wounded by a car bomb outside militia offices in South Lebanon overnight, security sources said Friday.

They said the car blew up at around midnight in the parking lot outside the offices of the Syrian-backed Amal.

Amal, in a statement broadcast on mosque loudspeakers, accused Iran and its 1,500 Revolutionary Guards in Lebanon of being behind the attack.

"Our militia will retaliate at the appropriate time and location," an Amal source said.

Amal, which controls most of South Lebanon, called a strike Friday in protest.

IOC pays tribute to Kuwait's Sheikh Fahd

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) paid tribute Friday to Kuwait's Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad Al Sabah, an IOC member since 1981 and a promoter of sports in Asia.

Sabah, a brother of the emir of Kuwait who died Thursday of an invasion, was killed trying to defend the royal palace, according to diplomats.

Sabah, 45, also was a vice president of FIFA, the world soccer association in Zurich, following his election by Asian members last July. The post made him a member of the executive committee, FIFA's top decision-making body.

He headed the Olympic Council of Asia, a grouping of national Olympic organizations staging next month's Asian Games in Beijing. He chaired the Kuwait Olympic Committee.

"It's a very big loss to the world of sport," Director General Francois Carrard said from IOC headquarters in Lausanne. "With the development of sports in Asia, he had an important role."

"He was very active, very devoted. He was popular."

The IOC, now reduced to 88 members, may decide to leave Sabah's post vacant, Carrard said. The organisation next meets in Tokyo in September.

Iraqi invasion of Kuwait gives Baghdad hostage key

By Peter Smerdon
Reuters

BEIRUT — The take-over of Kuwait has placed in Iraqi hands the oldest key to freedom for Western hostages in Lebanon — a group of 15 pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslims jailed for 1983 bomb attacks in Kuwait.

But diplomatic and political sources said they doubted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would free the 15, as demanded by the Islamic Jihad kidnappers of two Americans held longer than any other of the Western captives in Lebanon.

They said they were concerned Saddam might even try to use the hostage link to put pressure on Washington to scale back its role in leading opposition to the invasion by trying to organise world sanctions against Iraq.

Islamic Jihad (holy war) claimed responsibility for December 1983 bomb attacks against U.S., French and Kuwaiti targets in Kuwait city that killed six people and injured about 60.

It demanded freedom for the 15 Iraqi, Lebanese and Kuwaiti Shi'ites in exchange for Westerners held in Lebanon. Kuwait repeatedly rejected any such deal.

The sources in Beirut said Iraq's assault on its tiny Gulf neighbour may have changed little in the hostage deadlock because Baghdad had its own reasons to oppose any exchange.

"In this part of the world, and in the case of the prisoners in Kuwait, my enemy's enemy is not necessarily my friend, said a diplomatic source.

"I cannot expect Baghdad to free the 15 prisoners on the grounds that Iraq has invaded Kuwait and the prisoners were opposed to the West and the Kuwaiti government," he said. The sources said Baghdad had

its own reasons to want the prisoners behind bars and was unlikely to move to resolve the hostage issue for the West while Washington was so active in opposing the invasion.

"The 15 prisoners said at their trial they were members of the Iranian-backed group Al-Daawa (the call), which began as a dissent movement in Iraq and later moved its headquarters to Tehran. Iraqi authorities campaigned against Al-Daawa during Baghdad's 1980-88 war with Iran."

U.S. intelligence sources said one of the reasons behind the 1983 bombings of the U.S. and French embassies, an airport and a power station in Kuwait was the oil-rich Gulf state's considerable financial support for Iraq in the Gulf war.

"Iraq is unlikely to have much sympathy for the 15 or their goals," a political source said. "So why should it do what would be seen as a favour for the West and Iran by freeing them?"

Islamic Jihad holds Americans Terry Anderson, Middle East bureau chief of the Associated Press, and Thomas Sutherland, dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut.

Anderson was seized on March 16, 1985.

Among the 15 prisoners in Kuwait is a brother-in-law and close friend of Imad Moughniyeh, one of the founders of Islamic Jihad who is believed to have masterminded several kidnappings.

Muslim fundamentalist sources said last month that Moughniyeh had fallen out with Iran because Tehran wanted Western hostages in Lebanon released.

They said Moughniyeh, whose men are members of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), had rebelled in Lebanon from Iran because Tehran was pressuring him to free his captives.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News Summary
18:10 Local programme
19:20 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:50 Local programme
22:00 News in Arabic
22:10 Arabic play

PROGRAMME TWO

17:45 Le Monde Est a Vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Joint Account
21:00 Encounter
21:30 Classical Music
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: Hiroshima out of Asia

PRAYER TIMES

04:28 Fajr
05:47 (Sunnah) Duha
12:42 Dhuhur
16:22 'Asr
19:36 Maghrib
21:43 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 510140
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Association Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Association Tel. 632541
Anglican Church Tel. 625385, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771351
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 778261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 2 18 / 31

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ahmad Al Dagh 676473
Dr. Mahmoud Al Sheikh 630987
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Amana pharmacy 637055
Naironk pharmacy 629672
Al Saban pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamrani pharmacy 637660

IBRD:
Dr. Mubad Ejbou (—)
Al Shera pharmacy (985236)

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Response 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 699
Rescue Police 192, 62111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 638000
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 891467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdul Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 31813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn.

GFJW elections held despite boycott

By Mariam M. Shaban
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Chaps hit the third national elections of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) Friday morning as about 150 women demonstrated inside the election hall opposing the polls and calling for a new date to be set for the process. In the meantime, a limited free-for-all erupted between the demonstrators and a group of ministry officials as well as Islamists, but the election went ahead as scheduled, with nine candidates from an Islamist reform bloc claiming an uncontested majority in the 17-member executive committee of the federation, despite boycott by 37 federation delegates.

Altercations took place inside the hall of the General Union of Voluntary Societies, and one woman, a Ministry of Social Development official, fainted in the melee.

The row revolved around demands by nationalist and left-leaning as well as independent activists for "equal representation" of the 9,000 members in the federation and around claims that

the elections were illegal. But these objections fell on deaf ears, said an activist.

While all 60 Islamist delegates participated in Friday's election of the executive committee in a vote of hands, all but three of the 40 delegates representing various municipalities boycotted the elections.

Women representing different parties united in the opposition to the polls ended up alternating with the others during and after the election which the protesters declared as "null and void."

The woman official from the ministry who was assigned to count the votes had to be hospitalized after she passed out.

Charges and counter-charges of "who-hit-who" flew across the election hall and police arrived soon to restore calm and order. No-one was arrested.

The boycotting delegates and their supporters claim that the elections are illegal as well as unrepresentative. They also protested the elimination of 85 individual delegates from Irbid Governorate.

The demonstration of 150

women began inside the election hall after the interim executive committee headed by Butheina Jandaneh refused to allow representatives of abstaining members to read out a memorandum outlining their position.

"When Butheina refused to allow us to speak we wanted to make ourselves heard so we began making noises," said one of the demonstrators, Amman delegate Janet Al Mufti, a political activist who ran in the Nov. 8 general elections to the Lower House of Parliament.

Jandaneh, who was assigned by the Ministry of Social Development to oversee the elections, had a different story to tell. "According to the regulations we vote and then discuss everything that has to be discussed. I was not about to give in to some of the women just because they were screaming," Jandaneh said.

The leader of the Islamist group which is called the "reform bloc," Mahdieh Zmeili, defended Friday's election results. "If the ladies out there don't like the regulations they should not have made them," she asserted.

The row over the validity of the

elections has been brewing for the past month and a half, and GFJW members in Irbid and Amman are taking the Ministry of Social Development to court over its interpretation of the election law (article 12) of the federation, among other things.

The banning of the participation of 85 deputies from Irbid brought charges of discrimination on political grounds from nationalist, independent and leftist federation members. "The 60 deputies representing individual members in Amman seem acceptable to the Ministry of Social Affairs but the 85 in Irbid, who are not followers of politicised Islam, are labelled ineligible for voting," said one leader of the demonstration.

Officials at the Ministry of Social Development have said that the 85 deputies were banned from participating in the elections because their registration papers had been handed in "too late."

Irbid federation officials counter this argument by asserting that their 85 deputies had registered in 1989. The registration period ended in March 1990,

according to ministry officials.

Another violation, according to Friday's protesters, was that the election process involved a show of hands rather than balloting. The demonstrators unsuccessfully called on ministry officials to note this as "another violation."

"Article 19 of the federation charter states that the elections be held by secret ballot. So holding an election by a show of hands is 'illegal,'" said Amman delegate to the convention Suheila Bahlawan.

Zmeili, of the Islamic Reform Bloc, disagreed. "Only if there is more than one person contesting for the same place do we need to have secret ballots. If no one is contesting, then there is no need for it," she argued.

Independent observers left the election hall astonished.

"The ministry is apparently incorrect in what it is doing," one observer said. "The Islamists don't want to admit that because the ministry's interpretation works in their favour and the women opposing the status quo have definitely 'lost their cool'."

Jordan studies alternate water resources; desalination, import are costly options

By Ghadeer Taber
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan, faced with water shortages for both domestic and agricultural use, will have to develop new water resources, resort to desalination and may even import water to satisfy its needs by the year 2000, according to Minister of Water and Irrigation Daoud Khalaf.

Water shortage facing Jordan is the result of the decrease over the last decade in the yearly average rainfall, rapid expansion of population, urban growth and intense rural development, Khalaf said.

The problem was recently exacerbated by Israel's exploitation of water resources from the Jordan River in addition to the Jewish state's obstruction of the kingdom's efforts to secure financing for the construction of the Wabdash Dam on Yarmouk River, on the border with Jordan and Syria.

"At present, Jordan is exploiting its (known) surface and underground water resources to their full capacity," Khalaf told reporters at an informal press briefing. "In fact," he added, "some sources have exceeded their safe yield limits."

According to the minister, short-range measures aimed at covering the rising need for water include reducing losses and increasing efficiency of utilisation through modern technology.

Rationing of supplies, raising public awareness to control con-

servation rates, using drip irrigation and pipe conveyors instead of open canals and emphasizing quality control are among the measures, which also include recycling of water in industry and agriculture, he said.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation outlined the government's plan to concentrate on detailed field studies to explore all possible reserves in deep aquifers to help alleviate the shortage of water needed for domestic purposes.

The short-term plan covers the construction of new dams in Wala, Majib and Tannour in the south of Jordan with a total capacity of 80 million cubic metres (MCM).

The construction of the Wabdash Dam, with a total capacity of 250 MCM, is also an important component of the ministry's plan, according to the minister.

"Without the implementation of these two major projects," he said, "no advances in irrigation and industrial water will ever be possible."

Khalaf said Jordan would approach Arab and Islamic funds to finance the \$300 million Al Wabdash dam on the Yarmouk River after western financiers led by the World Bank stopped plans to lead the money pending an environment scoping study Amman had to do.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran said last month that Israel blocked financing of the dam after it claimed rights to the river's waters and asked for a water-sharing

agreement.

Khalaf said he could not understand why Israel would object to the dam in light of the fact that its share from the Yarmouk triangle (area between the Jordan River, the Yarmouk River and Lake Tiberias) would only be between 20 or 30 MCM, or one per cent of its annual needs.

The Israeli objection may have been made "for political reasons," he said.

The Yarmouk River flows from Syria along the border with Jordan and the Israeli occupied Golan Heights, and runs briefly between Jordan and Israel before bending to join the Jordan River.

According to Jordan's agreement with Syria regarding Al Wabdash Dam, the Kingdom would bear the entire cost of the project.

Asked whether Jordan was prepared to negotiate with Israel on sharing water in the Middle East, Khalaf said no such negotiations would be held unless within the context of a comprehensive settlement of the political conflict.

"This is a high policy issue," the minister said. "If the Israelis

respond, to the call for peaceful negotiation, then this (water) will be part of the deal," he said.

Import from Iraq

He said one of Jordan's options to cover the water shortage was to draw water from Iraq's Al Qa'em area, about 320 kilometres north-east of Amman. But the cost of water would be "too expensive" compared to local resources.

The cost per cubic metre of water from Al Qa'em would be JD 2 and desalinated water would cost around JD 1.5, while the average cost per cubic metre from local resources is JD 0.25.

Jordan consumes 730 MCM a year for all uses compared to 2,000 MCM consumed by Israel. Estimates for the year 2005 show Jordan would need 1,070 MCM to meet the demands of population growth. The current shortage, which is "causing water rationing," is estimated at 50 MCM a year.

Khalaf said Israel was over-exploiting its share of water from the upper Jordan River area, exploiting 75 per cent of West Bank ground water, and pumping

water from Lebanon's Litani River and the Yarmouk River into its "strategic" reserve in Lake Tiberias.

The only document that allocates water shares between Jordan, Syria, Israel and Lebanon was the Johnston Plan put forward in 1955. While none of parties actually endorsed the agreement, all had practically adopted it, the minister said.

Under the plan Syria was to get 132 MCM, Jordan 477 MCM and Israel 361 MCM including 25 MCM from the Yarmouk triangle.

According to available surveys, the minister said, "the actual exploitation in Syria is between 140 to 160 MCM, in Jordan 130 MCM, and in Israel 660 MCM."

Asked whether he considered water prices in Jordan as adequate, Khalaf revealed that the government was charging an average of only 40 per cent of the operations, and maintenance cost.

He said that while the ministry recommended an increase in prices, the government has not approved the proposal. "In my opinion it should be 15 fils," Khalaf said.

Medicinal herbs centre benefits rural women

IRBID (I.T.) — Her Majesty

Queen Noor Al Hussein Thursday inaugurated the processing and packaging centre of the Medicinal Herbs Project (MHP) which is being implemented by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Women and Development Programme (WDP) in cooperation with the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) in Irbid Governorate.

The Queen inspected the various parts of the centre, which produces nearly two million packets of herbs annually, and was briefed on progress in the Medicinal Herbs Project. The project was launched last November with a ceremony during which the Queen planted thyme saplings in plots of land in Hubras and Kufi Soum villages.

The project, which is being funded by the U.N. Population Fund, benefits 40 rural women in five villages of the mainly agricultural region of Bani Kinaanah district in northern Jordan.

The scheme involves encouraging women to utilise their homes, gardens and unexploited land for

planting useful aromatic medicinal herbs with a view to meeting the high demand for these plants, for use both as beverages and as raw materials in the prospering Jordanian pharmaceutical industry.

During the ceremony the Queen took part in harvesting the products along with other participants in the project.

In a statement at the ceremony Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat said that Jordan had been importing nearly 150 tonnes of thyme annually and nearly 1,000 tonnes of sage, together worth JD 1 million.

"The vast areas planted with these plants under plastic cover produce nearly 50 tonnes but there are other yields from rain-fed regions," he said.

The Ministry of Agriculture, he said, is maintaining close cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) in production and in preparing booklets and pamphlets to spread awareness about the proper exploitation of these medicinal herbs.

According to NHF, the overall objective of the scheme is to integrate women into the socio-economic development of Jordan.

The scheme seeks to identify potential female leaders and administrative cadres and train them in the management of viable, productive enterprises. It will also contribute towards national efforts aimed at promoting the reclamation of agricultural land and the beautification of the environment.

Planning for the scheme started at the beginning of 1989 under the supervision of a technical committee comprising representatives of the Jordan University of Science and Technology, the GFJW and the WDP.

According to NHF, the crops are taken from various areas to a packaging centre where the herbs are packed in tea or plastic bags with the help of a special packing machine which has the capacity of producing two million bags a year.

No flights between Jordan and Kuwait

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A Royal Jordanian (RJ) aircraft carrying 180 passengers that landed in Kuwait Thursday morning will not be able to return to Amman before the Kuwait's air space is re-opened for normal flights again, according to a spokesman for RJ.

He told the Jordan Times that because the Kuwaiti authorities had cancelled all flights and closed Kuwait's air space to normal air traffic no RJ plane would be able to land in Kuwait. There is no chance for travellers or visitors here to make the trip by air from Jordan to Kuwait since Kuwait Airways planes are not allowed to operate neither.

He said that no Iraqi or RJ planes are making flights to and from Baghdad for the same reasons.

"Kuwaiti Airways used to make three weekly flights between Amman and Kuwait until Thursday's developments," he added.

According to the official, an RJ scheduled flight from Baghdad failed to make the trip Thursday morning and there can be no expected changes in the coming 24 hours.

Meanwhile, the post offices in Jordan and telephone lines between Amman and Kuwait have been facing increased pressure since Thursday morning, according to the central post office.

An official contacted by the Jordan Times Friday said that thousands of Kuwaitis and Jordanians visiting here have been crowding the post offices and the Telecommunications Corpora-

tion (TCC) with demands to make telephone calls to Kuwait. "On the Jordanian side everything is working perfectly but it is the Kuwaiti side that has been failing to respond to the telephone calls," said a post office official.

Earlier reports said that 50 out of 70 telephone channels linking Kuwait with Jordan have been out of order since early Thursday and although the telephone service on the Jordanian side is working perfectly there is no way to find out about the Kuwaiti side and the reason for the disruption of communications, the official said.

He said that there can be no way of announcing an end to crisis and callers have to be patient until matters settle and channels operate normally again.

Visitors to West Bank warned to abide by rules

AMMAN (Petra) — Visitors to the occupied Arab territories have been warned not to come back to Jordan carrying things produced in Israel and to heed instructions in order to avoid any inconvenience.

Anything produced in Israel will be destroyed upon entry into Jordanian territory, according to a statement issued by the Police Department in charge of the crossing points at the King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges spanning the Jordan River.

Visitors making the trip to the occupied Palestinian land, said the statement, are required to have temporary passports issued in Jordan and a permit from the Israeli authorities to make the visit; those who have been included in the family reunion

programme and hold identity cards on the Israeli side of the bridge can go without this passport provided they carry the permits issued them by the Israeli authorities before they had left the West Bank and Gaza Strip to come to Jordan.

Referring to those born between 1958 and 1972 and holding yellow permits and five-year Jordanian passports, the statement said they must obtain a permit from the local police authorities before making the trip.

The statement also said that children born outside the occupied territories to Palestinian parents should obtain temporary passports if they are above five years of age; those under five must be registered in their mothers' passports.

Karaki meets Hourani

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki received in his office Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member and head of the Cultural Department Abdullah Al Hourani. Karaki and Hourani discussed the prospect of holding a joint Jordanian-Palestinian cultural week on the third anniversary of the Palestinian uprising next October. They also discussed the activities to be included in these events.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Plastic art exhibition by Rodaina and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.

★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

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Develop and plan product pricing guidelines and policies, conduct cost analysis and sales forecasting. Develop short and long term pricing and sales strategy. Must have experience in developing effective methods of sell, training of sales staff, and follow up and quality assurance. Must have 5 years experience as an account manager with a Computer firm with two years supervisory experience. Must have BS/BA in computer science of related field. Knowledge of Apple products is a plus.

102 Marketing Analyst/Manager

This position consists of studying and researching the market through formal market research methods including surveys, statistical analysis and sampling methods. Must have a background work in researching computer market segments and analyzing customer needs vs existing products. Develop marketing plan and products/ solutions definition and promotion. Responsible for the planning of products launching, promotions, advertising, and other events related to product marketing. Minimum 5 years experience in marketing research, preferably in computer products Must have a BA in Marketing.

103 Financial Accountant

5 years experience as a senior accountant in a Retail Based Business with multiple branches/ companies. Must have a BA in accounting form an accredited University. Must have experience with the American accrual based accounting method Responsible for financial planning, develop financial, accounting, and audit procedures, financial reporting and budgeting.

104 Networking and Communication Analyst.

This position consists of network requirements definition, design, and implementation. Minimum 5 years experience in LAN and WAN in one or more standard/ commercial networks such as Ethernet, Token Ring, Arcnet, and SNA Experience with one or more NOS including Appleshare, Novell, Decnet, VTAM-NCP, LU62/APP, and/ or NFS. Experience with CL/1, MACDFT, MAC workstation, or MACAPPC is a plus.

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Minimum of 5 years experience in generic software development, preferably GUI based software, Knowledge of OS internals - MACOS, MSDOS, or UNIX. 3 years experience in C or Pascal.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Feverish campaigns and hidden facts

IN EXPLORING the reasons that drove the Iraqi leadership to send its army into Kuwait, analysts need not go back in time than a couple of weeks, when (on July 17) President Saddam Hussein delivered a speech in which he spoke at length about festering — and politically — explosive problems with the Kuwaiti government. Most prominent among — if not the essence of — those problems was how Kuwait failed to appreciate Iraq's great sacrifices in the Gulf war, in terms of financial compensation at least. We do not need to tell the whole story since it is all there in the speech and the subsequent letters that the Iraqi foreign minister sent to all Arab countries explaining Iraq's frustrations and demands.

The circumstances of the take-over, and the political climate in which it happened, are something different. And they are definitely worthy of study and open to conjecture by every analyst.

Whether the Iraqi move was precipitated or necessitated by any number of considerations and factors — internal, regional or external — is a question that will be talked about and researched for quite a while.

What is likely to be forgotten or ignored by some especially in the West, however, is a crucial factor which must have contributed greatly to the take-over decision. It is, to be precise, the U.S.-led campaign against the person and personality of the Iraqi president which had reached such feverish pitch that it appeared to warrant a strong reaction in response.

On the face of it, that campaign was not only limited to the familiar media propaganda that some Americans, other Europeans and Israelis indulge in. It went further than that. Iraq was attacked for possessing chemical weapons, its imports of technology from the West were hampered, and the country was subjected to great pressure to repay its debts while being deprived of earning enough oil funds to revive its war shattered economy. Iraq felt deeply hurt by the West but especially by its sister Arab neighbour Kuwait after fighting a bloody eight-year long war defending not only the interests of all Arabs but also those of the West against Iranian extremism and aggression. The campaign against Iraq had reached such proportions that seem to have in the end blinded the West to what it could see next in the Middle East. After all, Iraq was not the first country to introduce chemical weapons into the region and threatened to use them only if it was attacked. Iraq does not possess nuclear arms as does Israel, the U.S. "strategic ally". If Iraq has emerged from its war with Iran as a regional power, which it did, then the U.S., whose interests in the Gulf Iraq also helped to protect, should have acknowledged this and dealt with it as a matter of fact. Iraq, as a new regional power, is entitled to defend its own rights and the rights of the Arab countries, including their right for a fair deal with the West in exchange for oil. The Arabs, moderate and otherwise, have for so long seen the U.S. maintain a campaign against Arab political and economic interests, specifically by its unlimited support of Israel.

Iraq as a regional Arab power is expected by all Arabs to defend their rights in the Gulf, Palestine and everywhere in the Arab World. The campaign against Saddam Hussein, which climaxed in calling him a "new Hitler," among many other names, could only make the Iraqis react in kind. The take-over of Kuwait is — "under to the West that their interests in the region could also be threatened by the same country that defended their interests against the Iranian threat.

These facts might fall on deaf ears as far the politicians in the U.S. and the industrialized world are concerned. But they should be neither forgotten nor ignored by those seeking the truth about what is happening in our part of the world nowadays.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ALL Jordanian dailies tackled the situation in the Gulf in the wake of Iraq's incursion into Kuwait to put an end to its dispute over oil production and territorial sovereignty with its neighbour. Al Ra'i for its part said that Washington which brags about its concern over the interests of its 'friends' in the Gulf was quick to freeze all Kuwaiti and Arab assets and funds under its disposal as if these funds were its own property. The United States has also been issuing threats that it will resort to force and will use its fleet to attack Arab countries, as if the Arab World was part of the United States, the paper noted. It said that these threats following the developments in the Gulf should open the eyes of the Arab masses to the real intentions of the United States and its ambitious designs in the Arab region. There are vast sums of funds deposited in the U.S. banks in the name of a handful of people who had been in control of the Kuwaiti wealth, and these funds are now being taken by the United States, the paper pointed out. It said that those who had control of the oil wealth used to deal with the oil as a commodity and not as a strategic weapon that could be used to defend Arab rights, and they used to produce in excess of the OPEC quota with the intention of making quick profits for themselves at the expense of the Arab Nation's interests. Any solution for the crisis, the paper added, should take into consideration pan Arab interests; and the Arabs should make sure that neither Washington nor any other foreign force should be given the right or the chance to interfere in internal Arab affairs.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

'Fundamentalism: The indigenous factors'

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

In last week's article, I focused on the motives behind Western enmity towards the Arabs in particular and Islam in general: an enmity that, at least partly, accounts for the backlash portrayed in the rise of fundamentalism and fundamentalist sentiment. And while the Islamic Revolution of Iran may have had some impact on the matter, the truth is that Islamic fundamentalism anti dates that revolution. It is, however, true that both the Islamic Iranian revolution and the experience of the Muslim peoples with the West in the colonialist period helped in further radicalising the fundamentalist sentiment: A radicalisation that was seized upon by the Zionist and the Western mass media for their own purposes.

In this article I shall concentrate on the indigenous factors that may help explain the strength of fundamentalism in the Arab World. To begin with, we are a basically reli-

gious people whose life now, and traditionally revolved around the centrality of God-devil in our life. As the region that witnessed the rise of the three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam, we are constantly reminded of the presence of God in our midst. Hardly a bend in the road, a monument, a village or a wadi that does not contain some witness to a prophecy, the passage of a prophet, a miracle, a battle or some shrine. Our names relate to God and even on our trucks, taxis and even private cars; religious reminders are present. Our news papers, radio and television stations contain a continuous flow of religious reminders. We are basically a religious people, who, till this day continue to insist that the "epitome of wisdom is the fear of God."

And now that we are in the grips of a transitional civilisational stage: in-between what once was and what we might

become, the pressure on our psychological and societal reserves is so terrific, that we do, at times, act irrationally. In our desperation to defend our very souls, not to mention our persons or land we have come to emphasise ritual and ceremony, even outer behaviour over content and rational choice. Sometimes I think that we have legislated ceremony in, and man, and human values based on contemporary choices, out.

Whole patterns of our lives are daily disappearing and little seems to take their place. The materialism that has invaded our culture, dividing tribes and families into classes, has been a reward for the privileged few. In fact while the gap between the rich and the poor grows deeper, the conspicuously consuming "velour" class that has arisen in our cities, seems to become more insensitive each day. The nouveaux riches; precisely because they are that, are incap-

able, by their very nature and makeup, of appreciation or understanding of what is truly going on around them. It is as if the expensive cars, jewelry and vacations abroad have isolated them from the reality of the injustice around them; in the same way that the oil-rich Arabs seem to have no concept of the matter, or even of what ultimately may be fatal to them. And in the meanwhile the Arab regimes, with very few exceptions, have continued to permit the situation to worsen. The truth of the matter may, however, lie elsewhere; for these regimes, mostly of recent origin and without any experience or precedence to fall upon, are just as confused and as bewildered as the masses. That, at least in part, explains the widening gap between what the regimes can deliver and what the masses expect.

And while the alienating by-products of urbanisation are

one reason, the disintegration of the old groups; family, tribe, clan, are another. The fundamentalist movement, whatever it may call itself, offers a sense of collective belonging to one group with some understandable goals; and also offers a new socio-economic or political relationship with a sense of purpose and group solidarity. And because it is couched in religious terminology, which is to begin with familiar and also, at the same time absolute, it finds a welcoming echo in the hearts and the minds of those seeking to unburden themselves from the uncertainty of making a personal choice.

You see our society over the past few millennia have developed in such a way that the individual must melt in the group and conform with the patterns developed by that group. Very few individuals dare break the pattern and step out of the circle. Children are expected to behave like their fathers, even dress and look

like them. Such tight "knit-ness" did not allow for the individual to emerge except on rare, very rare occasions. The emphasis on the "I" that we at times witness in certain behavioural patterns, is closer to selfishness; sometimes even mindless selfishness which we confuse with individualism. Witness the driving pattern in the streets of any Middle Eastern city. Individualism not only needs bravery, the personal bravery for one to stand on his own feet, alone, facing the world, but a certain respect for the right and the space of others.

Modernity whetted the appetite: We look through the window at the wonders that the modern world has to offer and we torn; truly torn; between our desire for these wonders and at the same time strong resistance to them. And in our quandary neither government nor the intelligentsia have been of much help.

King announces summit

(Continued from page 1)

Nahayan had agreed in talks in Jeddah Thursday that the Arab League should call a summit to discuss the invasion.

The two leaders agreed on holding an Arab summit to discuss the Iraq-Kuwait dispute with a sincere brotherly spirit away from convulsions to safeguard Arab interests and achieve solidarity," WAM said.

Later in the day, Egypt and the GCC Friday strongly condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and called for the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwaiti territories.

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates joined Kuwait in issuing a toughly-worded statement after an emergency ministerial meeting on Thursday's invasion.

"The GCC condemns the Iraqi attack on its sister Kuwait and demands an unconditional and immediate withdrawal of its troops to their positions before Aug. 1, 1990."

The GCC rejects this aggression and any effects caused by it. It urges the Arab League to take

a united Arab stand based on the principles and spirit of the Arab League Charter to end this aggression," the statement said.

Egypt demanded that Iraq immediately withdraw its troops from Kuwait and allow the return of the Kuwaiti government.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry, in a strongly-worded statement carried by the MENA, told Iraq not to interfere in Kuwait's internal affairs and to settle their disputes through negotiations.

"Egypt was surprised by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the regrettable complications that followed which would have dangerous implications for the region and the whole future of the Arab situation," the statement said.

The three-point statement demanded that Iraq immediately withdraw its troops from Kuwait, halt attempts to change the Kuwaiti government by force, and agree specific ways to settle differences through peaceful negotiation.

Egypt and Iraq are partners in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) economic alliance along with Jordan and Yemen.

Kuwait's financial assets 'more lucrative' than oil

By Cotton Timberlake
The Associated Press

LONDON — Because of quick action from the United States and its allies, Iraq won't be able to obtain Kuwait's extensive financial assets, which are more lucrative than its oil.

After the invasion Thursday, Kuwait asked other countries to freeze its assets to protect them from plunder by Iraq. The oil-rich sheikdom is one of the world's biggest and most secretive investors, with a massive portfolio worth up to an estimated \$100 billion.

West Germany, Japan, Italy, Belgium and Luxembourg on Friday followed steps taken by the United States, Britain, and France on Thursday to freeze Kuwaiti assets. Switzerland also on Thursday ordered its banks to prevent the seizure of Kuwaiti deposits.

About half of Kuwait's overseas investments are believed to have been made in Britain, the Financial Times newspaper reported Friday.

Kuwait holds stakes in British Petroleum, Midland Bank and other major British companies. It also has extensive investments in well-known companies in West Germany, Spain and the Far East.

In light of the British government's action, London's Stock Exchange on Thursday advised member companies not to undertake any securities transactions on behalf of Kuwait's government or any Kuwait residents.

It suggested that its members explore cancelling any such transactions made on Thursday.

Since the 1950s, Kuwait has steadily invested its oil profits around the world against the day when its oil reserves run out.

Its investment income has grown so much over the years that it is the country's biggest source of income, surpassing oil income, the Financial Times reported.

Last year, Kuwait had \$8.8 billion in investment income, while it earned \$7.7 billion from shipments of crude oil, the newspaper said.

Kuwait's massive global portfolio is managed by the Kuwait investment authority, the Bank of Kuwait and the London-based Kuwait Investment Office, which doesn't discuss its investments.

The office underwent a management shake-up earlier this year, when a member of the Kuwaiti royal family, Sheikh Fahd Mohammed Al Sabah, was brought in to replace longtime director Foad Jaffer.

No spokesman was available at the Kuwait Investment Office, a

woman answering the phone said Friday. The KIO is housed in an unremarkable building near St. Paul's Cathedral.

Kuwait Airways referred a call about the status of its flights to the Kuwait embassy in London, where the phone went unanswered.

Separately, the Kuwait Petroleum Co. has a global network of production refining, distribution and marketing that takes oil from its wells all the way to consumers through its gasoline stations.

A Kuwait petroleum subsidiary is Santa Fe International Corp., a California-based oil and gas drilling and exploration company.

Kuwait, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, has an output of 2.5 million barrels a day.

The KIO over the years has developed a reputation for being a low-profile, long-term investor.

Iraqis to start pullout

(Continued from page 1)

come together with Iraq. The explosion caused no damage, the AP said quoting diplomatic sources in Saudi Arabia.

Kuwaiti diplomats outside their country said that forces loyal to the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who Iraq said was replaced by a group of young Kuwaiti revolutionaries Thursday, were staging anti-Iraqi operations from within Kuwait, and observers drew on this report to conclude that the reported presence of Iraqi troops near the Saudi-Kuwaiti border was to counter the loyalist forces.

Public communication from Kuwait was severed and a radio station opposed to the invasion was knocked off the air. Its last message was a desperate appeal from the people of Kuwait asking all other Arabs to "rush, rush to their help."

A U.S. State Department spokesman also said he had no information on a CBS news report that Iraqi troops in Kuwait were nearing Kuwait's border with Saudi Arabia.

The CBS report from London quoted British and U.S. oil sources.

"We have no information on that," the State Department spokesman said.

Gunfire and shelling rocked Kuwait City Friday, more than 24 hours after Iraqi forces invaded the Gulf state, the British Foreign Office said.

A spokesman said the British embassy was hit by bullets during the invasion Thursday, although damage was limited to broken windows and there were no casualties among the 22 staff.

One of the Kuwaiti navy's 40 small gunboats attempted to bombard the Iraqi forces from the sea, according to Gulf shipping sources. But the Iraqi forces turned their artillery out to sea and the Iraqi air force strafed the vessel.

A source in the administration of U.S. President George Bush with access to U.S. intelligence reports from Kuwait said Kuwaiti oil production and shipping facilities appeared to have escaped undamaged from the Iraqi attack.

"To the best of our knowledge we don't think there's been any damage to Kuwaiti oil facilities," said the source.

Kuwait's ambassador to Syria said members of the ruling family were leading resistance against Iraqi forces from somewhere inside Kuwaiti territory near the Saudi border.

Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al Jasem urged Arab leaders to form a joint force to "enter Kuwaiti territory to help the Kuwaiti armed forces who are fighting the Iraqi occupation troops."

"The Kuwaiti leadership is leading resistance against the Iraqi occupation from inside Kuwait near the Saudi border," he told Reuters.

"Our embassy in Riyadh is now acting as a temporary headquarters for the foreign ministry," he said. Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Sabah was "somewhere in Kuwait leading military operations against the Iraqis."

In Geneva, a son of the emir of Kuwait told a crowd of 500 cheering Kuwaiti demonstrators they would overcome Iraq's invasion if they stuck together.

"Kuwait is going through a very hard time but if we stick together we will overcome the challenge," Salem Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, told them before they marched to demand U.N. action to force Iraq out.

Iraq's ruling Baath Party urged Arabs everywhere to back "Kuwait's national uprising" and be on the alert against possible attack.

In a statement addressed to the Arab masses, broadcast over Baghdad Radio monitored in Nicosia, the Arab Baath Socialist Party's leadership said: "It is a national duty to support Kuwait's uprising."

"The Arab masses from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arab Gulf should protect this significant national event, it being the reply to anti-Arab designs led by America in collusion with its direct ally, the Zionist enemy."

"Arab masses are urged to declare decisive support for Kuwait's national uprising and be in the highest state of political, psychological and popular alertness to face all possibilities including an aggressive adventure," the Baath party statement added.

Superpowers join forces to assail Iraq, calls arms embargo

(Continued from page 1)

Iraq which have evolved for decades.

"Despite these good relations we were forced to take such steps by the events in Kuwait, in line with new (Soviet) political thinking and normal relations between civilised states," he said.

The Soviet Union has displayed mounting anger and frustration over Iraq's take-over of Kuwait.

and signalled it was ready to work closely with the United States to try to resolve the crisis.

The official TASS news agency said Baghdad was becoming "a permanent source of tension."

And a statement from the semi-official Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, which for decades avoided any criticism of Third World states, denounced Iraq and called for "the prompt erec-

tion of a barrier against the aggression."

But Soviet officials and analysts said there was little more than diplomatic and economic pressure that could be brought to bear at this stage on Iraq, whose forces swept into Kuwait Thursday.

The Soviet Union's long experience of dealing with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein

appeared to make it unlikely that President Mikhail Gorbachev, currently on holiday on the Black Sea, would make any personal appeal to the Iraqi leader, diplomats said.

An official Chinese newspaper accused the United States Friday of raising tension in the Middle East sending warships to the Gulf and freezing Iraqi financial assets.

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West has very little option in the Gulf

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

LONDON — The West, which for years has tried to avoid offending Iraq on the grounds that it was too important a country, has been left almost powerless by Baghdad's take-over of Kuwait, according to Western analysts.

Past snubs by the government of President Saddam Hussein prompted little more than verbal condemnations from the Western powers, fearful of disrupting Gulf oil supplies and pointing out that greater threat came from Iraq's rival Iran.

U.S. and British moves to block Iraqi use of Kuwaiti assets in response to the assault on Kuwait are the most resolute action so far by any Western government, and analysts said it was hard to see what tougher move could be taken.

Philip Robins of Britain's Royal Institute of International Affairs said the West had taken a "rather fatalistic" approach towards Iraq. "Senior figures have been saying Iraq is too important to disengage from or impose real sanctions on."

"Now the big powers are presented with a fait accompli. One of the reasons why the Iraqis moved is that they calculated it would be difficult for the West to do anything at all," he said.

Another analyst, Don Kerr of the London-based Interna-

tional Institute for Strategic Studies, said economic sanctions seemed to be about as far as outside powers could go.

"From a purely military point of view, the United States could intervene there, but from a political point of view it is exceedingly unlikely. It would be politically unsatisfactory and there is the military risk of another little Vietnam," he said.

Early reactions from Western politicians made clear they were placing their main hopes on the United Nations, whose Security Council Thursday condemned the invasion and demanded Iraq's immediate withdrawal.

Analysts said the U.N. might be the body best placed to intervene if its troops, which in recent years have been limited to peacekeeping operations with the consent of all the parties on the ground, were given greater powers.

Thus, they said, might now be a more realistic prospect given the improved climate between the United States and the Soviet Union. Moscow, Iraq's chief arms supplier, has joined Washington in condemning the invasion.

But they ruled out any action by NATO, which is prevented by its treaty from operating outside Europe and the North Atlantic.

The Western European Union (WEU), grouping nine European NATO members, is not so restricted and in 1987

helped to mount a multinational minesweeping operation in the Gulf.

But experts said that was a specific task covered by international laws on freedom of navigation. Intervention in Kuwait would be "very difficult in terms of political will. WEU activities will be determined by political will," Robins said.

Western reluctance to confront oil-rich and big-spending Iraq dates back to the outbreak of the Gulf war in 1980. Reluctant though, they were to see Baghdad dominate the Gulf, they found the prospect of a victory by Islamic fundamentalist Iran still more frightening.

More recently, a whole series of Iraqi actions have caused brief sensations, then been dropped without major reprisals.

In May 1987, an Iraqi plane fired an Exocet missile at the U.S. frigate Stark in the Gulf, killing 37 American sailors. The incident was explained as a mistake.

Earlier this year Britain seized a shipment of nuclear triggers it said Iraq had tried to smuggle through London airport. Britain and other countries also seized components of what they believed to be a giant "supergun" ordered by Iraq. Iraq denied both allegations.

Last March Iraq hanged a British-based journalist of Iranian birth, Farzad Bazoft, on

spying charges. Britain recalled its ambassador but did not break relations. There was a similar reaction from Sweden when Iraq executed an Iraqi-born Swede, Jalil Mehdi Al Neamy, last month.

Iraq's alleged use of chemical weapons and attempts to acquire nuclear ones have caused widespread alarm and claims that it may be a Middle Eastern country rather than one of the big powers which starts a nuclear war.

"We're going to have to be prepared for a world in which more countries have nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them," U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defence Donald Atwood told the WEU in Paris in June.

"Witness the recent attempt by the Iraqis to acquire the triggers for nuclear weapons and their continuing development of ballistic missiles."

The chief U.S. nuclear arms negotiator, Richard Burt, also argued recently that the possible acquisition of atomic weapons by Iraq was a reason for the superpowers to retain nuclear deterrents.

But analysts said Western governments would be able to argue that as things stood at present, the Iraq-Kuwait conflict could be contained within the region, as was the Iran-Iraq war.

"The superpowers have stepped back from the Middle East and neither is threatened directly by this development,"

U.S. asks Riyadh and Ankara to shut Iraqi export pipelines

By Rawhi Abdeloh
Reuters

NICOSIA — The United States is pressing Saudi Arabia and Turkey to shut pipelines that carry nearly 90 per cent of Iraqi oil exports, Gulf officials and oil sources said.

But both Riyadh and Ankara appear wary of the idea that would set them on a collision course with Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein who took over Kuwait on Thursday largely to replenish his country's depleted coffers, they said.

Iraq's oil exports are the basis of its economy and the power behind its mighty war machine.

If Iraq's two neighbours were to agree to Washington's plan, Western navies would prevent the remaining 10 per cent of Iraq's oil exports shipped from its own Mina Al-Bakr terminal from leaving the Gulf, the sources added.

Gulf Arab officials and analysts agreed that an oil embargo and other economic sanctions were Saddam's Achilles' heel. But they doubted Saudi Arabia would join such a high-risk plan.

Iraqi troops were now a bit too close for comfort for the vulnerable kingdom.

One Middle East expert, informed of Saudi Arabian thinking, said: "The Saudis are scared stiff of any miscalculation that might trigger the wrath of the unpredictable Saddam."

Washington wants to force cash-strapped Saddam to pull his troops out of Kuwait without having to use military might. Iraq owes an estimated \$72 to \$80 billion, most to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia and its Gulf ally the United Arab Emirates have spare oil capacity. Washington envisages they would open their taps to fill the energy caused by the blockade of Iraqi oil, the sources said.

Oil industry executives say Venezuela and Nigeria, other key OPEC members with meaningful spare capacity, would be more than willing to help if only to benefit from the current 15 per cent rise in world oil prices.

"On paper, this seems fantastic but in practice... only God knows," one Riyadh-based oil industry executive told Reuters.

A Turkish foreign ministry source said his country, a major importer of Iraqi crudes, would consider a NATO request for closing the 1.6 million barrels per day (bpd) pipeline, but did not expect to take such a move soon. Washington is also pressing its Middle East allies to join a wider international economic siege of Baghdad, aimed at depriving Saddam of the petrodollars he thought his invasion of Kuwait

could produce. A senior Gulf Arab official involved in negotiations with a major Western country on measures to force an Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait told Reuters on Friday:

"America is telling the Saudis and others (Arab states) that unless they act, Saddam's next stop will be you."

"In return, the U.S. and possibly others in the West are willing to provide military protection for Saudi Arabia... The Iraqi force is no match for the formidable U.S. power."

U.S. President George Bush on Thursday ordered a ban on all Iraqi imports and froze billions of dollars of Kuwaiti assets for fear they could fall into the hands of Baghdad.

A spokesman for the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) said Kuwait had \$16.26 billion worth of assets at major Western banks at the end of last year.

Bush asked for similar steps by his NATO allies in a concerted measure designed to "cripple Iraq totally... by refusing to buy any of its oil," according to an alliance official.

The Western world's financial involvement with Baghdad is underscored by joint figures produced by BIS and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development.

"They show Iraq owed Western lenders \$13.66 billion at the end of 1989. Banks in 24 Western countries and off-shore financial centres were owed a total of \$10.21 billion by Baghdad at the end of last year."

The Gulf official said: "There is a clear sympathy being shown by Saudi Arabia to Kuwait... the Iraqi invaders are on their (Saudi) borders whether they like it or not."

Reflecting the increasing pressure on Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies to act, Saudi-based Western diplomat said: "People can't sit on the fence now. They can either condemn Iraq, act or sit put and watch the Iraqis continue their expansion."

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But apart from the perceived high risks to Arab countries the U.S. plan involves, Saudi Arabia, by far the world's biggest oil exporter, appears not to have exhausted diplomatic efforts.

Izzat Ibrahim, one of Saddam's deputies, returned to the Saudi Red Sea port where King Fahd of Saudi Arabia was continuing contacts with Arab leaders to "return matters to their normal situation" between Iraq and Kuwait.

Ibrahim walked out of talks with Kuwait there one day before Iraq invaded.

Middle East analysts said a blockade could only bite if it was

sustained for a long time.

Many Western commentators say one catalyst of the invasion was Saddam's desperate need for cash to rebuild the economy battered by eight years of war with Iran up to 1988.

Despite Saddam's reputation for unpredictability some experts believe his invasion of Kuwait was just another example of how carefully his moves are planned.

"He knew exactly how far he could go without provoking immediate Arab reaction. Saddam has got everything he wanted. He will stop there and consolidate," one Gulf-based economist said.

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U.S. women basketball players continue to roll at Goodwill Games

SEATTLE (AP) — Scratch one U.S. boxing phenom at the Goodwill Games. The other phenom goes for gold, something a fistful of U.S. women basketball players also seem to have well in hand.

U.S. boxers had their hands full Thursday night in the semifinals, and they were full of Soviets. A pair of 17-year-old knockout pro prospects on the American team split their bouts. Jeremy Williams getting knocked out by Soviet Andrei Kurnyavka and Oscar De La Hoya winning a lopsided decision over Alir Khamatov, another Soviet.

The U.S. women's basketball team, meanwhile, has won 39 in a row since beating the Soviets at the 1986 Goodwill Games in Moscow. The U.S. women, who won their second world championship only two weeks ago, scored a 103-80 victory over Australia Thursday. The U.S. women play Bulgaria Saturday in the semifinals.

"We can't at this moment beat them because of the way they play and the strength of their team," Bulgarian coach Ivan Lepitchev said.

Boxing

Eight of nine Americans in Thursday night's semifinals fought Soviets.

Williams, fighting at 178 pounds (80 kilograms), forced Kurnyavka into a standing eight count in the first round with a thundering right-left combination, but then took one himself after what appeared to be a slip.

Two rounds later, he was hurt. Kurnyavka hit him with an overhand right that sent Williams toppling to the canvas like a felled tree. He remained on the floor until his cornermen, including his father, and the ring doctors got him to his feet. He was immediately put under physicians' supervision.

De La Hoya, like Williams being courted by pro scouts here, scored a 4-1 decision over Khamatov, in the 125-pound (56-kilogram) class.

Other U.S. winners were 106-pound (48-kilogram) world champion Eric Griffin, Terry McGroom at 178 pounds, Larry Donald at 201 (91), and Ivan Robinson at 125. Robinson stopped Soviet Faat Gat in the third

round, while the others won on decisions.

That gives the United States eight boxers in the finals over the weekend. The Soviets have nine.

Basketball

The U.S. team shot 60 per cent from the field, including 9-for-16 from 3-point range, as the Australians crowded the basket to make the Americans shoot from outside.

"I've seen them play two games, and I could count the number of baskets they'd scored outside the key on one hand," Australian coach Robbie Cadue said. "Everything was inside with either their power game or their transition. I decided we had to take their strength away from them and make them play from outside, and they did. They hit 3-pointers after 3-pointers."

Teresa Edwards had four of the 3-pointers and wound up with 16 points. She also almost wound up in a fistfight with Michele Tims of Australia.

In Saturday's semifinals, the United States will face Bulgaria, an 85-79 loser to Brazil in Thursday's later game. The Soviets

play South Korea.

Diving

Gao Min of China, winner already of the 3-metre springboard, won the 1-metre board with a score of 508.80. The top American, Wendy Lucero, was fourth.

Skating

Viktor Petrenko, the 1988 Olympic bronze medalist, grabbed the lead over two-time world champion Kurt Browning through the men's original programme. Petrenko had four 5.9s out of perfect 6.0 in his 14 scores.

Americans Todd Eldredge, the U.S. champion, Chris Bowman and Paul Wylie all missed required elements. They were fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively.

World champion Jill Trenary led a 1-2-3 finish in the original programme by Americans. Trenary, of Colorado Springs, was trailed by Nancy Kerrigan of Woburn, Massachusetts, and Kristi Yamaguchi of Fremont, California.

Mears proves fastest

BROOKLYN, Michigan (AP) — Track record-holder Rick Mears ran a lap at 221.682 MPH (356.686 kilometres per hour) and Al Unser was injured in a crash Thursday at Michigan International Speedway in the opening practice for Sunday's Marlboro 500.

Mears, who set the track qualifying mark of 223.401 (359.432) in 1986, was easily the fastest driver in the crash-punctured session on the two-mile (3.2-kilometre) oval.

The 51-year-old Unser, a four-time Indianapolis 500 winner, sustained a broken right thigh and fractured ribs when his Alfa Romeo-powered Lola crashed following an apparent suspension failure.

Unser, who remained conscious and alert throughout, was transported to W.A. Ketter Hospital in Jackson, Michigan, then was scheduled to be taken by air to Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis for surgical repair of his leg injury.

Al Unser Jr., who saw only the aftermath of his father's accident from the cockpit of his Lola-Chevrolet, turned the second fastest lap of the day — 221.682 (356.686) — just before the end of the practice.

"I didn't know who it was when I first saw that something definitely dug a line in the asphalt all the way up to the wall," said the younger Unser, the current CART-PPG point leader. "When I saw it was bad, I slowed down quite a lot and I saw his head moving."

"The (right front) tire was right up against his hip area), but there was no hole made by the tire in the tub. I didn't look too serious when I went by."

He later got out of his race car long enough to talk with his father in the ambulance before it left the track.

"I asked him if he knew where he was, and he did. And I asked him what happened and he said, 'the car broke'."

The first of two rounds of time trials was scheduled Friday, with the pole and the rest of the up-front positions for Sunday's race up for grabs.

Bobby Rahal, the younger Unser's teammate, was third fastest Thursday at 221.426 (356.274), followed by defending series champion Emerson Fittipaldi at 221.300 (356.071) and teammates Mario and Michael Andretti, the defending race champion, both at 220.399 (354.622).

Edberg beats Matsuoaka in L.A. tennis tourney

LOS ANGELES (R) — Top-seeded Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden struggled past the hard-serving Shingo Matsuoaka of Japan 7-5, 6-4 to advance to the quarterfinals of the \$250,000 Los Angeles ATP tennis tournament.

Seventh-seeded Gary Muller of South Africa rallied to beat American Joey Rive 2-6, 6-3, 6-1 in a serve and volley contest to advance to the quarterfinals as well.

In other second round matches, Brian Garrow defeated countryman Todd Witsken 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, and Jeff Tarango eliminated David Pate 6-4, 6-7, (2-7) 6-4 in another all-American pairing.

Edberg, second in the world, said he has yet to find his top form since winning Wimbledon. He has struggled with his first serve in his first two matches here.

"I didn't expect to play my best tennis at the first hard court

tournament. There are three weeks leading to the U.S. Open, and I hope I can build to it like I did toward Wimbledon," Edberg said.

Edberg broke the 179th-ranked Matsuoaka, whose first serve was consistently clocked around 110 MPH (176 KPH), in the eleventh game of the first set with a backhand winner despite two aces from Matsuoaka in that game. Edberg stumbled when he reached triple set point in the next game.

Matsuoaka belted two backhand winners and a forehand passing shot to save the set points, but Edberg held on to win the first set on his fifth set point with a sharply angled volley.

Edberg escaped the only three break points he faced in the second set with clever volleying and broke Matsuoaka in the sixth game of the second set to clinch the victory.

Korean takes lead in LPGA Boston Five

DANVERS, Massachusetts (AP) — Korean Ok-Hee Ku celebrated her 34th birthday Thursday with a 30-34 (tournament record) for a five stroke first round lead in the \$350,000 LPGA Boston Five classic.

Ku, who has been having her worst year in five on the pro tour and had missed the cut in her last three tournaments, shot nine birdies and a single bogey to break the tournament record of 65 set by Marta Figueras-Dotti in 1985 and tied in 1986 by Laurie Rinkler.

The round, which matched Ku's best competitive round, put her into the lead at Windy Tara Farncroft country club as Dottie Mochrie at 34-35 and Cindy Rarick at 35-34-69 tied for second place.

Ku sank birdie putts ranging up to 27 feet (8.2 metres) and birdied four of the last five holes on

the front side, finishing with a four-footer (1.2 metres) that gave her the record.

"My putting is really very well," Ku said through an interpreter. "Usually it is no good," she said of a year when her best tournament finish was seventh place more than four months ago in the LPGA Circle K tournament at Tucson, Arizona.

Ku, who has earned only \$20,515 in ten tournaments this year, two-putted the 331-yard par-4 tenth for her only bogey of the day.

She said she "plays much better" in Boston because of the support from a group of Korean friends she met after shooting a pair of four-under 68s for the 36-hole lead in the 1986 tournament. She shot two-over par in the final two rounds and finished tied for third, two strokes behind winner Jane Geddes.

Johnson to resume running next year

PARIS (R) — Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson, whose two-year ban for doping expires next month, says he will not return to racing until next year.

"I won't resume running before I feel ready to, that is early next year..." Johnson told the French sports daily L'Equipe in an interview published Thursday.

Negotiators for American Carl Lewis, who became Olympic 100 metres champion following Johnson's disqualification at the 1988 Seoul Games, have been trying to set up a duel between the arch-rivals.

But Johnson told L'Equipe: "Such a clash is not part of my programme this year. I want to be left alone and I don't want to accept any pressure of this sort."

The International Amateur Athletic Federation ban ends Sept. 24, but Johnson also needs Canadian government permission before he can resume racing. A decision is expected the same day.

"It would be a shame if they refuse me permission to run. But there would be nothing I could do," he said.

Johnson, who tested positive for the performance-enhancing steroid Stanazolol in Seoul, said his goal was to win back the titles he lost.

"My goal is still to win gold medals at the world championships in Tokyo and at the Olympics in Barcelona," he said.

The Canadian, whose 9.79 second world record in Seoul was erased from the record books after the test, said he was confident he could run as fast again.

"I mean to run under 9.90 again, probably in the world championships in Japan... I'll recover all my records one by one. I have just been robbed of them for a while."

Lewis now holds the 100 metres record of 9.92 seconds.

Baseball roundup

THE Chicago White Sox swept Thursday's two-night doubleheader from the Twins in Milwaukee, taking the opener 4-3 as two players making their major-league debuts, pitcher Alex Fernandez and first baseman Frank Thomas, made major contributions.

Chicago took the second game 4-2 as Melido Perez held Milwaukee to five hits in 7 1/3 innings. Bobby Thigpen, who leads the majors with 34 saves, saved both games with a scoreless inning in each.

The White Sox broke a four-game losing streak in the opener. Fernandez held the Brewers to two runs and five hits in seven innings but lost his chance for the victory when Barry Jones gave up the tying run in the eighth. Jones (11-1) blew a save opportunity but got the victory.

Ivan Calderon and Carlton Fisk hit consecutive home runs to give Chicago a 3-0 lead in the fourth inning.

Calderon opened the ninth with a single off reliever Randy Veres (0-3), took second on a wild pitch and moved to third on Fisk's groundout. Thomas hit a slow hopper to third baseman Gary Sheffield, whose throw home was up the first-base line and not in time to get Calderon.

Fernandez and Thomas were called up earlier in the day from Birmingham of the class AA Southern League.

In Baltimore, Cal Ripken drove in three earned runs with a triple in Baltimore's four-run first inning. All four runs against Pete Filson (0-2) were earned as errors by right fielder Danny Tartabull and third baseman Kevin Steiner opened the door.

Dave Johnson (11-6), Joe Price, Curt Schilling and Grego Olson limited the Royals to six hits. Olson got the last two outs, striking out both batters, for his 25th save.

After Ripken's triple, he scored on Craig Worthington's single. The Royals got a run in the fourth when George Brett doubled and Tartabull singled. Baltimore made it 5-1 in the bottom of the inning on Bob Melvin's third homer.

France takes equestrian honours

STOCKHOLM (R) — Frenchman Eric Navet rode two faultless rounds to take the lead in the individual world show jumping championship and help his country win the Nations Cup Thursday.

Navet guided his eight-year-old stallion Malesan Quito de Baussey around the 14-fence course without penalty points in the second leg of the championship, which counts towards both the Nations Cup and the individual title.

"This is the first international season for my horse. He is really world champion class," said a jubilant Navet.

Hubert Bourdy and Olympic gold medalist Pierre Durand, who each knocked down one fence, were lying seventh and eighth in the individual standings after helping France to team gold with a total of 18.88 penalty points.

West Germany finished second on 24.56, Britain third with 29.91. The United States, the titleholders, were fourth.

"We were very motivated this year," French team chief Patrick Caron said of the side which won bronze at the last world championships.

The West German team were more than happy to win silver in the wake of allegations of animal cruelty against their former champion Paul Schockemoehle by an animal protection group opposed to the practice of rapping the legs of horses in training to make them jump higher.

Schockemoehle, a leading trainer, has denied the cruelty allegations and his pupil Franke Sloothaak pulled out of the Stockholm event in solidarity.

Navet holds a narrow lead over American Greg Best on Gem Twist in the individual standings after three rounds. Ludo Philippaerts of Belgium on Opticbeurs Darco is third.

The top 20 riders after Thursday's two rounds enter Saturday's third leg of the championship to determine the four combinations for a final jump-off Sunday.

Wostenholme advances, Wheaton withdraws

BROOKLINE, Massachusetts (AP) — Martin Wostenholme launched a pair of decisive passing shots to gain an eleventh game service break to take a 7-5, 6-1 victory over Paul Anacone in second-round play at the U.S. Pro Tennis Championships Thursday.

Meantime, seventh-seeded David Wheaton withdrew from the tournament prior to his match Thursday against Lawson Duncan after aggravating a hip injury.

"I wasn't very sharp," said Anacone after his loss. "When I came to net at five-all he hit a couple of good passing shots to break my service and I never could get back into the match."

Anacone said when he was able to get to the net "I'd hit poor approach shots," which the 27-year-old Wostenholme was able to retrieve and return for winners.

"He runs real well and returns shots that you'd think were unreturnable," Anacone said.

Wostenholme, of Canada, agreed that the service break at 5-5 in the first set was decisive.

"It was a long game and I had a few close misses, but then I decided to hit out and got lucky with the passing shot attempt," he said.

Wostenholme said, "running is a big part of my game. I enjoy chasing down a ball." He said it can be a psychological edge as well "when a guy thinks he's got you down and you return his shot — sometimes in an unorthodox way — you decimate him."

Wostenholme would probably face third seed Jay Berger in the quarterfinals. The two have faced each other before. "We played in this (U.S. professional tournament) last year and he beat me in straight sets," Wostenholme said.

Wostenholme said he might have a slight edge when the two meet this year. "He was in the finals in Canada this week against Chang and he played a couple of three setters up there as well. I'm hoping he might have a slight letdown after his big tournament," Wostenholme said. "It's tough to play at that level week in and week out."

Frenchwoman beats sailing trans-Atlantic record

RENNES, France (R) — Frenchwoman Florence Arthaud set a new single-handed trans-Atlantic sailing record Friday when her trimaran Pierre Premier crossed Lizard Point, in southwestern England.

Arthaud, the only experienced woman skipper in trans-Atlantic races, completed the crossing in nine days, 21 hours and 42 minutes — more than one-and-a-half days faster than the previous record of 11 days, 11 hours and 46 minutes set by compatriot Broun Peyron in 1987.

Arthaud, who left New York July 24, would have done even better but the wind dropped 60 miles off Lizard Point, slowing her boat from an average speed of 14 knots to 5 knots on the last day of her crossing.

The overall trans-Atlantic sailing record of six days, 23 hours, three minutes and 52 seconds, has been held since June 9 by Frenchman Serge Mader and his crew on the Catamaran Jet Services.

Lautier scores first victory

BIENNE, Switzerland (AP) — France's Joel Lautier defeated Vlastimil Hort of West Germany Thursday marking his first victory in the Bienne International Grandmasters tournament.

The 17-year-old Lautier, the world's youngest grandmaster, won after 35 moves against the Czechoslovak-born Hort, at 46 the oldest entrant in the meet.

Lev Polugaevsky and fellow Soviet Anatoly Karpov, ranked number 2 worldwide, agreed to a draw after only 17 moves. Polugaevsky, recovered from a bad bout of flu, earlier won his adjourned game against West Germany's Matthias Wahls who had been unbeaten in ten previous rounds. It was Polugaevsky's second victory in three rounds.

In the intermediate standings, Karpov, challenger of world champion Gari Kasparov in the final next October, maintained a 1.5-point lead over four players sharing second place.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 4, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day and evening that can be packed full of action-helpful or detrimental depending upon whether you stick to old and worn out conditions or be openminded to the new and expensive.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Make sure you do nothing to offend one in the outside world who has a considerable amount of influence but later join charming parties and be happy.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) A scrappy new individual could cause you problems in the morning but later you can get off to some new associates for a most pleasant, agreeable time.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Avoid getting into any sort of business matter after breakfast and wait until later to delve into problems requiring considerable astuteness.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) An outside associate can try to pull the wool over your eyes during morning hours so be wary and then you can enjoy family at your home.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't be impatient over a problem at your daily vocation and instead get into pleasant communications and meeting and you have a very good day.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Amusement matter seems not

to be working as you wish so drop for the moment and focus your attention on how to make your property more valuable.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get away from home and have a change in the morning after which you can do the things you like and thoroughly enjoy yourself at them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Discount a communication you do not understand early and spend your time fortifying out ways to wage a better campaign to gain your ambitions.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't let a feeling of lack of abundance get you down but be busy making real progress towards gaining your most desirable personal ambitions.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) You do not see with usual clarity this morning so don't make any decisions then but instead you can get out and get right answers from a bigwig.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 19) Fretting over a worry you can't avoid just is a waste of time and thought and instead you can be looking into new activities that can bring you success.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A wondrous acquaintance can put you on the defensive if you react to a comment but you can have a happy afternoon and evening with your mate.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



HARRIS 6-29

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HECAF
MASCK
FORTYS
LUFUES

THEY SOMETIMES HOLD HANDS AT THE POLICE STATION.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: RANCH DICED BUTTON CRAFTY
Answer: You can draw this as long as you live—YOUR BREATH

THE Daily Crossword by Norma Steinberg

ACROSS

- 1 Tyson moves
- 5 Leg-reading
- 10 Hit hard
- 14 Healing balm
- 15 Cathedral town of Port.
- 16 A Turner
- 17 Obligation
- 18 Fonda's sister?
- 20 Bus phone addendum
- 21 Part
- 22 The hills
- 23 Seth's sib
- 25 — Alto, CA
- 27 Badge
- 29 Kin output
- 33 Seasonal greens
- 34 Artist Albrecht
- 35 Beam
- 36 — K. L. King
- 37 Sawlike part
- 38 Farm building
- 39 Meadow
- 40 Ridiculous
- 41 Cum — Sails
- 42 Laterally
- 44 Searched for
- 45 Jacks of clubs
- 46 Weasels' st.
- 47 A Williams
- 50 Thoss guys
- 52 Switch word
- 55 Grodin's vehicle?
- 56 Double
- 59 Star in Celius
- 60 Prufrock's creator
- 61 About
- 62 Survey
- 63 Swell
- 64 Fret

DOWN

- 1 Green stone
- 2 Mr. Trebek
- 3 Redford's racehorse?
- 4 Gel
- 5 Lol
- 6 Elliptical
- 7 Sole
- 8 Large boat
- 9 Utter
- 10 Skier's move
- 11 Territory
- 12 Singer Paul
- 13 Giant great
- 19 — Ice cap
- 21 Count (on)
- 24 Bertok
- 25 A Mason
- 26 Vicinity
- 27 Rock form
- 28 Whetted
- 29 Ringlets
- 30 Levin's savings?
- 31 Chila con
- 32 Church council
- 34 Fleur—
- 37 Thailand
- 38 Lingerie
- 39 Items
- 40 Posh
- 41 Forbidding
- 43 Grandiosa
- 44 Score
- 47 Mounties' monogram
- 48 Client's stete
- 49 Work relier letters?
- 51 Owl sound
- 53 Gabbie's income
- 54 Aviated
- 55 Shishan
- 57 "The greatest"
- 58 Not prof.

French firms fear loss of deals in Iraq, Kuwait

PARIS (R) — French contractors active in the Gulf expressed concern Thursday that Iraq's takeover of Kuwait could wreck prospects for lucrative post-war reconstruction business with Baghdad.

"The future is now uncertain," said a senior official with leading engineering firm Sogea.

"For us it could be a double blow because we do good business with Kuwait as well," said the official who asked not to be named.

Sogea was one of the leading French companies which stayed firmly behind Iraq during its eight-year Gulf war with Iran.

During the war, France was Iraq's main arms supplier.

At the height of the conflict, Sogea built a 1,200 kilometre network of canals and pipelines in Baghdad, the biggest such project

in the Arab World. It cost \$1 billion.

Sogea is currently building the Arab World's tallest telecommunications tower in central Kuwait.

"We are up to 220 metres but we don't know what will happen now," the official said.

An official at civil engineers Spie Batignolles, which along with French firm Fougereille built Baghdad's Saddam Hussein International Airport, named after the Iraqi president, said the firm was watching developments there.

It has just won a management contract for a \$800 million aluminium foundry in the Iraqi town of Nassiriya. The main French contractor for the project is Sofreid.

French aviation firm Dassault

was reported in the media last year to be negotiating the sale of aircraft to Iraq while electronics giant Thomson S.A. has been linked to Iraq's missile development programme.

Many other French contractors have been hoping Hussein's government would reward their support during the Gulf war with reconstruction work following the end of the fighting.

With an eye on such business, French firms have been putting pressure on their government to stop blocking further credits to Iraq because of its debts to France of some \$6 billion.

"Iraq has advertised many attractive tenders but the situation and the background has now changed," said Nicolas Sarkis, director of Paris-based Arab Petroleum Research Centre.

Tokyo shares drop, dollar gains over Gulf conflict

TOKYO (AP) — Shares on the Tokyo stock exchange plummeted as the U.S. dollar strengthened against the Japanese yen Friday due to uncertainties over the Iraq-Kuwait conflict, traders said.

The dollar finished trading at 149.35 yen, up 0.45 yen from Thursday's close of 148.90 yen. After opening at 149.77 yen, the U.S. currency ranged between 148.90 yen and 150.35 yen.

On the stock market, 225-issue Nikkei stock average shed 79.42 points, or 2.41 per cent, ending the day at 29,515.76. It lost 592.81 points Thursday.

"The drop is because of nothing else but concern over the Iraq-Kuwait situation," said Kenji Maeshiro, an analyst with Yamaichi Securities Co.

The index dropped more than 600 points early in the morning and then narrowed the loss to 291.71 at the end of the morning session on rumours of a ceasefire in Kuwait. It fell back again in the afternoon on another rumour that Iraqi troops were heading for the border of Saudi Arabia, Maeshiro said.

He said large-scale arbitrage selling to take profits from price differences between the spot and the future market also fuelled the plunge in the last 30 minutes of the afternoon session. As a result of the last-minute massive selling, the index ended at the day's low.

"Because rumours come out one after another, market players just could not figure out what was really happening over there, and growing uncertainties and fears prompted selling," Maeshiro said.

Maeshiro said already-rising oil prices also discouraged buying because of predictions that higher oil prices would lead to inflation and delay possible U.S. action to lower interest rates to revitalise its economy.

North Sea Brent crude oil prices moved sharply higher Friday, as the market continued to react to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

By 3 p.m. (0600 GMT), Brent crude oil for September delivery was at \$23.00-23.30 a barrel, or higher than the \$22.00 late Thursday in New York. Earlier Thursday in Tokyo, September Brent was valued at \$22.60 a barrel.

Stock trading was thin with first section volume estimated at 430 million shares, up from Thursday's 400 million.

In currency dealings, dollar-yen trading continued to fluctuate nervously as market players were influenced by rumours about the Middle East, said Toru Kanai, a foreign exchange analyst with New Japan Securities Co.

Following its overnight strength against the yen in New York, the dollar opened higher and continued to rise as market players saw little movement toward a peaceful settlement of the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait.

"Participants tended to buy the dollar because they think the dollar is a safe investment," Kanai said. The dollar had been falling recently because of gloomy predictions for U.S. economic growth.

Steep oil price rise likely to hurt U.S., L. America

WASHINGTON (R) — The steep run-up in oil prices in the wake of Iraq's takeover of Kuwait could push up U.S. inflation but it will not be enough on its own to throw the economy into recession, the White House's chief economic adviser said Thursday.

"It (high oil prices) will have some deleterious effect on our economy," said Michael Boskin, chairman of the White House's Council of Economic Advisers.

He shied away from making any specific forecast about the impact of the Iraqi invasion on oil prices and said much depended on whether any price increases stick.

News of the invasion sent oil prices soaring 15 per cent to their highest levels in four years. Almost one-quarter of the world's oil comes from the Middle East.

"Our economy today is much better able to absorb modest price increases than it was in the past," Boskin told Congress' Joint Economic Committee.

The economy is more flexible than it was at the time of the last oil shock in 1973 and can adjust more quickly, he said.

As an illustration, he said that a 25 per cent run-up in oil prices would cut only a few tenths of a percentage point from economic growth. The administration is forecasting economic growth this year of 2.2 per cent.

A 10 per cent increase in energy prices would translate into a one-time increase of less than one per cent in consumer prices, Boskin added.

Private economists said the spectre of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait casts a long shadow on the U.S. inflation picture and could delay an expected cut in U.S. interest rates.

Some believe the one-time impact of higher oil prices resulting from the attack will be absorbed fairly quickly and lead to only a short-lived increase in domestic prices.

But an aggressive Iraq, OPEC's second-largest oil producer, may keep output low at the group and oil tight indefinitely.

"Iraq got the message across. It can make mincemeat of other OPEC members," said John Silvia at Kemper Financial Services.

Most economists agreed the invasion would leave its mark on prices in the near term.

All export facilities for Kuwait crude oil and related products were closed Thursday, Kuwait supplies only about two per cent of U.S. imports.

"There is no question this will have an inflationary impact, at least into August and September," said Alan Lerner, economist at Bankers Trust.

Inflation fears sparked by Iraq's move also cast doubt on any near-term cut in interest

rates. In mid-July, the Federal Reserve lowered interest rates to help offset a credit squeeze by banks and other lenders.

But recent signs of weakness in the economy, including meagre 1.2 per cent growth in the second quarter, had prompted speculation the U.S. central bank could ease interest rate policy again.

The Middle East situation "makes the Fed's (U.S. Federal Reserve) job much more difficult. Despite evidence of a slowing economy, inflation has not slowed to a pace the Fed would feel comfortable with," said Henry Engler, economist at Chemical Bank.

The prospect of sharply higher oil prices is also a big blow for many Latin American nations trying to pay off debts but may be a short-term boost for oil exporters such as Mexico, Venezuela and Ecuador.

"Assuming a sharp upturn in prices this is going to make things very difficult for countries like Brazil," said Janet Kelly, a U.S. economist at a Caracas-based business school.

But she said any increase in oil prices is bound to benefit producer countries such as Mexico, Ecuador and Venezuela in the short-run.

"Although no Venezuelan would like to say so in public, the economic impact (of a price rise) for Venezuela is positive," Kelly

said. Venezuela, Latin America's leading oil exporter, relies on crude shipments for more than 80 per cent of its revenues.

For Ecuador, which relies on oil exports to fund roughly half of government spending, firmer prices may spare the country some painful belt-tightening.

But for Brazil, labouring under a crushing debt burden and having to import heavily to meet its oil needs, sharply higher prices are nothing short of a nightmare, analysts said.

"This is very bad news for the like of Brazil," said Pedro Palma, director of Caracas-based Mercoeconomia, a monthly economic report.

Iraq is a major supplier of oil to Brazil, which imports some 500,000 to 600,000 barrels of crude a day.

Peru, Uruguay and Chile also have little to celebrate if oil prices continue to firm, analysts said.

The most widespread fear is of a repeat of events in the early 1980s when escalating oil prices helped fuel inflation, which in turn drove up interest rates, analysts said.

High interest rates played a key role in precipitating the still unresolved debt crisis in Latin America which forced an economic slowdown unseen since the depression of the 1930s.

Iraq exports to U.S. total \$2.4b in '89

WASHINGTON (A) — The United States, which Thursday blocked almost all imports from Iraq, imported some \$2.4 billion in oil and other goods last year from the oil-rich Middle Eastern country.

U.S. exports to Iraq, led by agricultural commodities, totalled \$1.17 billion in 1989.

Iraq is one of the United States' biggest trading partners in the Arab World, surpassed only by Saudi Arabia. Iraq's leading exports to the United States are crude oil and dates.

Kuwait's exports to the United States, also mainly oil, totalled \$973 million last year. Kuwait imported \$855 million in U.S. goods, led by motor vehicles and parts.

Australia eases monetary policy

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — The government slashed interest rates by a percentage point Thursday in an effort to avoid a recession, a move that surprised financial experts and was criticised by the opposition as a panic move.

The Australian dollar immediately fell, while the stock market moved sharply higher, also boosted by reports of an Iraqi incursion into Kuwait.

The fourth easing of monetary policy this year came in the wake of the release of figures showing inflation moderating although still higher than the government had hoped. Imports have been falling, leading to a narrowing in

the nation's current-account deficit.

Sell, Treasurer Paul Keating said the government has a very firm monetary policy in place.

"We think it is important that people understand that we are not trying to recess the economy," Keating told a news conference. "We want commerce to go on and continue."

"While people have had a squeeze and we had to reduce economic activity to hold down the current account and inflation, we are now at a point where we clearly want the economy to continue growing," he said.

"We believe we can get that balance between a rate of growth which keeps the country together and still bears down on the current account and inflation," he added.

A Reserve Bank statement announcing the reduction said, "while inflation is still too high, it was judged to be moving in the right direction."

It said inflationary pressures are expected to ease further as the economy continues to slow, with most indicators pointing to very moderate levels of domestic demand overall.

Consumer spending is subdued, while imports and credit growth have declined significantly in 1989-90.

The federal opposition immediately criticised the cut.

"There is a hint of panic in this move by the government," said Peter Reith, the opposition treasury spokesman.

Lloyd's stops advising rates for Gulf risks

LONDON (AP) — The Lloyd's of London insurance market Thursday cancelled its recommendations to its underwriters on insurance rates for vessels and aircraft to be covered against war risks in the Kuwait-Iraq area.

A spokesman for Lloyd's said the Lloyd's war risks rating committee decided that developments in the region, after the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, were so uncertain that no recommendations on insurance rates could be made.

The spokesman said underwriters would have to set rates themselves on the basis of particular sailings, or flights, and the specific risks associated with them.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES					
Thursday, August 2, 1990					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	660.0	664.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	443.3	446.0
Pound Sterling	1218.1	1224.4	Dutch guilder	366.7	369.9
Deutsche mark	412.5	415.0	Swedish crown	113.5	114.2
Swiss franc	483.2	486.1	Italian lira (for 100)	56.6	56.9
French franc	123.2	123.9	Belgian franc (for 10)	202.1	203.3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.			
One Sterling	1.8575.85	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1510/15	Canadian dollar	
	1.5920/25	Deutsche mark	
	1.7943/55	Dutch guilder	
	1.3520/30	Swiss franc	
	32.69/74	Belgian franc	
	5.3380/340	French franc	
	1164/116	Italian lire	
	149.32/42	Japanese yen	
	5.8365/8415	Swedish crown	
	6.1720/70	Norwegian crown	
	6.0810/60	Danish crown	
One ounce of gold	375.25/376.00	U.S. dollars	

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Swiss banks refuse to deal in Kuwaiti dinars

GENEVA (R) — Swiss banks are refusing to exchange Kuwaiti dinars, leaving hundreds of Kuwaiti holidaymakers not only unsure whether to return to a homeland now under Iraqi control, but also short of money.

"We aren't accepting dinars because we don't know where the exchange rate will be established," a spokesman for Union Bank of Switzerland said Friday.


Kuwaiti sources said hundreds of wealthy holidaymakers in exclusive Geneva were now in financial straits.

Geneva is popular with Arabs who come to escape the worst of the Middle Eastern heat and through the chic waterfront, particularly during August's summer carnival.

Until Iraq took over Kuwait early Thursday, the dinar was one of the world's strongest currencies by virtue of Kuwait's vast oil wealth.

In London, jittery Kuwaitis be-

Swiss freeze accounts of U.S. bank
BERN, Switzerland (AP) — Swiss authorities froze several bank accounts believed to contain millions of dollars linked to savings-and-loan fraud in the United States, a justice ministry spokeswoman has said. Spokeswoman Ursula Riedel said the freeze is precautionary pending a Swiss decision on a U.S. request for judicial aid in the case of now-defunct Community Savings and Loan in Bethesda, Maryland. The accounts in at least three Geneva banks were frozen last week, she told the Associated Press. U.S. government investigators, in the mid-July judicial assistance request, asked for access to bank records they think can shed light on the affair. Swiss federal authorities can approve transmission of the request to Geneva officials, who will make a final decision on the U.S. request. The U.S. request did not say how much money allegedly is in the accounts. Riedel said. The president of Community Savings and Loan, Tom Billmann, allegedly defrauded clients of \$106 million, according to published reports. Swiss accounts reportedly hold \$22 million of the total.

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Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144
THEY LIVE
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571
Adel Imam, Yusra in **The Devil's Island**
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:45 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238
THE BEACH GIRLS
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 10:45 p.m.

Civilians flee Monrovia; rebel factions retreat

MONROVIA (R) — Thousands of civilians fled the Liberian capital as rebels fearing attack from a rival faction withdrew from key positions and left Monrovia open to renewed occupation by President Samuel Doe's troops.

Only a handful of Prince Johnson's Independent Patriotic Front were seen on Thursday in areas they had captured earlier.

A long-time American resident who claimed to be close to the rebel leader said Johnson was turning his troops around to fight his rival Charles Taylor.

The withdrawal of Johnson's fighters left the capital open to Doe's troops, who massacred up to 600 men, women and children in a Lutheran church last Sunday.

The seven-month-old war has become a vicious feud, pitting Doe's minority Krahn tribe against Manos and Gios backing the rebels. Thousands of civilians have been killed by both sides.

Doe's troops recaptured the road to Radio Elwa near the city centre on Thursday — apparently without a fight.

Reuter correspondent Gill Tudor saw a small group of government soldiers standing confidently about 500 metres from a road junction previously in rebel hands. Rebel fighters about the same distance away in another direction seemed oblivious of their presence.

Rebels captured Elwa last Friday and Taylor, leader of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, broadcast an address proclaiming himself president. The radio station lies within sight of the heavily-fortified executive mansion where Doe is clinging to power.

In the northeastern suburb of Paynesville, rebels said they were still trying to surround another radio station about nine kilometres from the centre of Monrovia. Sporadic shooting broke out around the army-held 72nd battalion camp nearby, which is surrounded by rebel forces.

Johnson, a near-illiterate military strategist who says he has no interest in becoming president, broke with Taylor and the National Patriotic Front of Liberia in February.

Taylor has the larger of the two rebel forces, but Johnson struck into the capital first in the bid to unseat Doe.

Diplomats in the capital — which has been without water, electricity or food for almost a month — said the rivalry between Johnson and Taylor could prolong the conflict for weeks.

"No faction has established clear superiority, and it's not at all clear that there will be an early end to the conflict," one diplomat said.

Johnson told a news conference on Wednesday he would discuss with Taylor a joint attack on Doe if both rebel forces were in a position to advance on the presidential mansion.

Taylor's troops are still eight km from the city centre and their enmity with Johnson's forces makes joint action increasingly unlikely.

Taylor earlier boasted that Johnson had fallen into a trap and would be crushed before Taylor's forces went on to end the decade-long rule of former army Master Sergeant Doe.



Rebels from the National Patriotic Front of Liberia fire their automatic rifles at government soldiers during a battle at Schefflein military camp outside Monrovia.

60 world leaders to attend summit for children

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — More than 60 world leaders will attend the world summit for children here in September, forming the largest gathering of international leaders in history, U.N. officials announced Thursday.

Officials of UNICEF, the U.N. Children's Fund, and summit organisers told a news conference that U.S. President George Bush, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and French President Francois Mitterrand would attend the gathering Sept. 29-30.

Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev had been invited and had written a letter of support, but had not formally accepted, they said. Privately, U.N. officials said there was a good chance Gorbachev would attend.

The Soviet Union was contributing \$100,000 to the summit, which is expected to cost more than \$1.5 million and is not funded by the United Nations.

"This is a momentous, historic event, kicking off the 1990s as the

greatest decade for children ever," UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant said at the news conference. He was joined by Yves Fortier, the ambassador of Canada which will help chair the event.

The conference is being called at the initiative of Canada, Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan and Sweden. UNICEF is organising the meeting. The co-chairpersons will be Prime Ministers Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan and Brian Mulroney of Canada.

"This will be the largest gathering of world leaders in history," Grant said.

The summit will focus on children of both the developed and the developing world. It will consider universal problems, including prevention of disease, nutrition, education, homelessness and abandonment, drugs, the impact of AIDS, child labour and exploitation, and basic community services.

Organisers said that 38 presidents, 20 prime ministers and two kings have confirmed they will participate, and 80 world leaders have yet to respond.

The meeting will take place on a weekend during the General Assembly.

Grant said the conference is already generating benefits. The U.N. convention on the rights of the child has been ratified by 18 countries and will take effect when two more nations have signed it, expected before the summit, he said.

No other human rights treaty ever has come into force so rapidly, said Grant.

"The purpose is to deliver a message at a high political level that the children of the 1990s will be high on the agenda of the world in good times, bad times, peace or war," Grant said.

Fortier said the problems of black children in South Africa and of Palestinians in Israeli occupied Arab territories would be considered.

De Maiziere proposes German elections Oct. 14

EAST BERLIN (R) — East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere Friday proposed all-German elections on October 14, bringing forward the date from December 2.

De Maiziere made the announcement as the two Germanys prepared to unveil a joint draft of a treaty merging their legal and political systems to pave the way for unification elections.

De Maiziere said the earlier date had been discussed with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl Tuesday evening.

"For the historically important first all-German elections I propose the date of October 14, the same day that regional state elections are planned," de Maiziere told reporters.

"The all-German elections establish political clarity and economic security," he added.

The Bonn government has criticised East Germany for mis-

management in dealing with the economic reconstruction of the country following monetary and economic union with West Germany on July 1.

De Maiziere said East Germany was having bigger than expected problems in dealing with the legacy of 40 years of Communist mismanagement.

Employment and industrial output have plummeted over the last months. "The facts speak for themselves," he said.

Earlier elections would help to encourage investment and create new jobs. "The last few days have shown this ever more clearly," he said.

De Maiziere also said the earlier election date was justified because East Germany had achieved many of its objectives in negotiations with West Germany over a second treaty to be signed in September between the two states.

Britain's queen mother turns 90

LONDON (R) — Britain's queen mother, who once confided that she had found the prospect of becoming queen "an intolerable honour," has played a major part in establishing the present popularity of the royal family. The queen mother, who is 90 on Saturday, played a pivotal role in rehabilitating the monarchy after the trauma of the abdication of her brother-in-law, King Edward VIII. She is also credited with freeing the court from much of its stuffy teutonic protocol and making royalty more accessible to the public. In more than five decades of public service as a duchess, a queen and royal dowager, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, as she is officially known, has rarely put a foot wrong. The fact that Britain's favourite great-grandmother is partial to a gin-and-tonic and a bet on the horses only increases the public's affectionately call "the queen mum."

A winning smile and royal wave have become her trademarks, often copied but never matched by the younger members of the royal family who has helped prepare for the rigours of public life. The popular image of the queen mother is the charming diminutive, plump, matronly, with a predilection for often flamboyant outfits of feathers and chiffon. But there is more to her than smiles and wiles. Her decision to remain in London by her husband as German bombs rained on the capital in World War II earned her the nation's respect and gratitude. Adolf Hitler called her the most "dangerous" woman in Europe for her morale-boosting example. Although born into the aristocracy, Lady Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon was not groomed for life in the royal spotlight. She and her shy, stammering husband, the Duke of York, were unexpectedly thrust on to the throne in 1936 when King Edward VIII abdicated to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson. The queen mother never forgave her brother-in-law and his wife, who became Duke and Duchess of Windsor, for forcing her husband to abdicate and to the throne. The Duke and Duchess were banished from her court as she set about salvaging the tarnished reputation of the royal family. Her sense of decorum, combined with her natural sparkle and wit, were credited with restoring glitter to the monarchy. On a state visit to Roosevelt in 1939, Eleanor Roosevelt found her "perfect as a queen; gracious, informed, saying the right thing and kind but a little self-consciously regal." Widowed in 1952 after 29 years of marriage, she stepped back from the limelight after her daughter, Queen Elizabeth II, ascended the throne. She later resumed a hectic schedule, including her passion for horse racing on which she is an acknowledged expert. Equally happy tramping the countryside of fishing for salmon in tweeds and wading boots, her sense of humour and bubbly personality have never abandoned her. After an emergency operation to remove a fish bone stuck in her throat in August 1986 she quipped: "At least the salmon have got their own back." This year, as she always on her birthday, the queen mother will acknowledge cheers and a now-traditional singing of "happy birthday" by crowds of well-wishers at her London home, Clarence House.

International artists like Spanish tenor Placido Domingo and Dame Kiri Kanawa have flown to London to take part in a series of galas and parties to celebrate the occasion. One politician suggested that May Day be scrapped in favour of a bank holiday in her honour. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher called her one of those "precious people" who enriched the nation. "She has come to symbolise the continuity of the royal family across four generations." The queen mother, who celebrated her 85th birthday with a supersonic flight aboard a Concorde airliner, is looking forward to her 100th. She has told her staff that she would love to receive a birthday telegram on that day, like all other British centenarians, from her daughter the queen.

Bush proposes cutting 1/4 of U.S. forces

By Terence Hunt
The Associated Press

ASPEN, Colorado — President George Bush Thursday proposed a 25 per cent cut in U.S. armed forces within five years but said the Kuwait affair proves "the world remains a dangerous place" and that America's military must remain strong.

In a major defence speech, Bush said that even as armed forces grow smaller, the United States must be able to respond to global threats such as terrorism, hostage-taking, "renegade regimes and unpredictable rulers."

He said, "let no one, friend or foe, question this commitment."

On a trip cut short by Iraq's intervention in Kuwait, Bush for the first time committed himself to a 25 per cent reduction by 1995 in today's 2.1 million active duty personnel. He said the cutback would leave the armed forces at their lowest level since 1950.

"The threat of a Soviet invasion of Western Europe launched with little or no warning is today more remote than at any other point in the post-war period," said Bush, who has been under intense pressure from Congress to cut defence spending by reducing manpower and scrapping costly weapons systems.

"With the emergence of democracy in Eastern Europe," Bush said, "the Warsaw Pact has lost its military meaning."

The possibility of a 25 per cent military cut has been raised previously by Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, but has been attacked by some congressional critics as being overly cautious.

Saying that U.S. forces must remain strong, Bush declared, "the brutal aggression launched last night against Kuwait illustrates my central thesis: Notwith-

standing the alteration in the Soviet threat, the world remains a dangerous place with serious threats to important U.S. interests.

"These threats can, as we've seen just in the last 24 hours, can arise suddenly, unpredictably and from unexpected quarters," the president said.

"The events of the past day underscore also the vital need for a defence structure which not only preserves our security but provides the resources for supporting the legitimate self-defence needs of our friends and allies," he added.

The House of Representatives armed services committee voted Tuesday to trim the 2.1 million active duty personnel by 129,500 by the fall of 1991, compared with the administration's proposal for a cut of 40,000.

The committee, proposing to slash Bush's \$307 billion military budget proposal by \$24 billion, also recommended killing the B-2 Stealth bomber, making deep cuts in the Star Wars antimissile programme.

While welcoming the new course adopted by Moscow, Bush said, "prudence demands that we maintain an effective deterrent — one that secures the peace not only in today's climate of reduced tensions but that ensures that renewed confrontation is not a feasible option for any Soviet leadership."

Even so, Bush said, "at long last, we are writing the final chapter of the 20th century's third great conflict. The cold war is now drawing to a close."

Cheney has said that a 25 per cent reduction could save \$8.6 billion over five years as the Defence Department reduced six army divisions, 111 navy ships and 11 air force tactical fighter wings, and remove 442,000 personnel from active duty.

Singh emerges stronger after firing deputy

By Michael Battye
Reuters

NEW DELHI — Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh appears to have emerged stronger from a two-week crisis he ended, at least temporarily, by his surprise sacking of outspoken Deputy Premier Devi Lal.

Right up to a dramatic midnight announcement of Devi Lal's dismissal, political wisdom in Delhi was that the mild-mannered Singh would keep the rough and tumble peasant leader.

"It took just about everyone by surprise," said one senior Western diplomat on Thursday. "All the signals we were getting were that Devi Lal had turned the tide and it was (Commerce Minister) Arun Nehru who was vulnerable."

It was Nehru, outraged at Devi Lal's success in restoring his disgraced son to power in Haryana state, who opened the battle last month by leading a succession of ministers into Singh's office to hand in their resignations in protest.

On Prakash Chantala, first ousted after being held responsible for by-election violence, quit a second time. But his father kept the political pot boiling by accusing Nehru and Civil Aviation Minister Arif Mohammad Khan of corruption.

Devi Lal was fired after he sent a letter, purportedly written by Singh when in opposition and accusing Nehru of corruption, to the prime minister as proof of his charge.

Singh, denounced by Lal in a magazine interview as an indecisive weakling, dismissed the letter as a crude forgery.

"V.P. had to do it after that. It was a question of the dignity of the office of the prime minister, not at all a personal thing," said a senior official of Singh's Janata Dal party.

"Devi Lal mistook the prime minister's meekness for weakness. I don't think anyone will make that mistake again," said a senior member of the ruling National Front alliance, which has the Janata Dal at its core.

"Now it's over and the government can get on with governing. We will still have minor frictions, but Devi Lal will be less of a nuisance from the outside. He had alienated most of his supporters," he said.

The crisis, which brought large parts of the eight-month-old government to a standstill, fuelled rumours of an imminent election, but the National Front official ruled that out.

"No way," he said. Singh's action brought praise from the rightist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Communist parties who support his minority government from outside.

The BJP was "extremely pleased," said one party source. "Lal left the prime minister with no choice, but what impressed us is the way Singh went about it," Communist leader Jyoti Basu told Reuters.

He consulted the entire National Front parliamentary party and the two principal allies, the BJP and the Communists, on each step he proposed to take. This is a decision arrived at by consensus," said the West Bengal state chief minister.

"I don't believe Lal's sacking will affect the stability of the government immediately," he added.

Basu was not alone in suggesting Singh was not yet out of trouble and that Devi Lal, who projected himself as the lone farmer's voice in a cabinet representing the urban elite, was unlikely to fold his tent quietly and go home.

Devi Lal's supporters said he was planning to demonstrate his power by summoning 10 million farmers to Delhi next week.

"I would be surprised if he could get that many, with most farmers busy in the fields at this time of year, but Devi Lal is not finished yet," said a senior diplomat.

"This government has made a lot of promises to the rural population and Devi Lal can still make a lot of trouble."

Study: Breast feeding enhances immune system

LONDON (AP) — Breast-fed babies have more active immune systems after one year than babies who have been fed formula, Canadian researchers reported in the medical journal *The Lancet*.

Researchers at the University of Alberta department of paediatrics compared the immune response systems of 57 infants who were breast-fed with those of 24 bottle-fed infants.

The children were found through the Edmonton board of public health clinics by Drs. Henry Pabst and Donald Spady. They were given a vaccine for meningitis and severe pneumonia at two, four and six months, according to the article in the current issue of *Lancet*.

The report said there were no significant differences in measured antibody levels between the two groups before the age of seven months.

But after seven months, the antibody levels were significantly higher in the breast-fed infants

than the formula-fed babies, the report said.

"These findings are strong evidence that breast-feeding enhances the active immune response in the first year of life, and therefore the feeding method must be taken into account in the evaluation of vaccine studies in infants," the report said.

Spady said that it is well known that breast-fed babies are more healthy than formula-fed babies, but this is the first study to show that their immune systems are stronger and more efficient after several months.

"It demonstrates that the baby who is breast-fed is able to mount a more effective immune response," Spady said in a telephone interview.

"There is something in the milk that seems to stimulate their immune systems to work more effectively," he said, adding that further research will focus on what component of milk stimulates the improved response.

Barry trial goes to jury

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jurors in Marion Barry's drug and perjury trial began deliberation late Thursday after six weeks of testimony highlighted by a videotape of the mayor of the nation's capital smoking from a crack cocaine pipe.

Prosecutors said Barry "lived above the law" and deserved conviction, while the mayor's lawyer urged the jury to acquit him, rejecting testimony from "facile liars."

"No one can suffer any more pain of shame or hurt than me," Barry said outside the court house.

The jurors retired to begin considering Barry's fate after a night's rest. U.S. district court judge Thomas Penfield Jackson read them instructions on the law covering the evidence they had heard. They include nine women and three men, 10 blacks and two whites.

Scorning at suggestions by Barry attorney R. Kenneth Mundy that the mayor was the victim of a political or racial vendetta, assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Roberts, who like Barry is black, said the government had merely exposed the mayor's fondness for illegal drugs.

"Marion Barry lived above the law, he lived one step ahead of anyone who was looking at him,"

Roberts said. "He lied to the public. ... the sad fact is, Marion Barry was out to get himself."

Roberts urged the jurors to remember the 10 witnesses who testified about Barry's drug use and not join his "conspiracy of silence and deceit."

Roberts spoke to the jury for about 30 minutes after Mundy completed an emotional attack on the government and its witnesses.

But Mundy said during closing arguments that the exhaustive federal investigation of Barry's drug use amounted to "using a sledgehammer to kill a fly."

And he said jurors should refuse to convict the mayor because the government's case against him "simply doesn't have the flavour of evidence beyond a reasonable doubt."

He said government witnesses such as former model Rasheeda Moore and admitted cocaine dealer Charles Lewis were "facile liars right here in your very presence."

"How trustworthy, how believable and credible is the testimony of anyone under that kind of pressure?" Mundy asked the jury.

"This is a case without drugs ... all this depends on is the testimony of people who are under the gun."

Swiss blast away at world's biggest target shoot

WINTERTHUR, Switzerland (AP) — The Swiss have lived up to their trigger-happy reputation at the "symphony of shots," expending 4,450,000 bullets in a barrage of gunfire at the federal shooting fest.

The biggest recreational shooting contest of its kind worldwide has ended in this industrial city, and organisers called it a blazing success.

For 17 days through last Sunday, more than 80,000 men and women took turns blasting away at 463 targets on 16 shooting ranges from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the federal shooting fest.

"Winterthur has demonstrated that the interest in our sport is unbroken," said Hans Zuercher, central secretary of the federal shooters' association.

It was a "refreshing contrast from the gloom and doom that

has been spreading in the past few years," said Willy Lorentan, a Swiss parliamentary deputy.

"It's high time for U.S. Swiss to show more joy and optimism. We do not want to be viewed any longer as European champions of humourlessness," he said.

The Tages-Anzeiger newspaper of Zurich described it as a "symphony of shots."

Target shooting is highly popular in Switzerland, although a national referendum last November showed an ebbing of popular support for the citizens' army, the main promoter of marksmanship.

Shooting has been a hallowed tradition among the Swiss ever since — as legend has it — William Tell sent an arrow through an apple on his son's head some 700 years ago. The 580,000 organised shoot-

ers in a nation of 6.7 million have plenty of opportunity to practice their marksmanship.

Even the tiniest village has easy access one of the 3,000 ranges scattered throughout the country. On almost every weekend from April to September, firing echoes through Alpine valleys.

Part of the practice is obligatory. Every soldier of the Swiss militia army between the ages of 20 and 42 is annually required to achieve a certain minimum score in shooting at targets during off-duty practice.

This system means 423,000 automatic rifles are kept in Swiss homes. Every militia man discharged at age 50 can keep his weapon as private property, allowing him to continue practice unless he decides to sell the rifle on the second-hand market.

It makes for a lot of guns in a nation pledged to permanent neutrality, which last saw fighting 143 years ago in a one-month civil war that claimed 138 dead. Yet, military weapons are rarely used to commit crimes in this largely violence-free country.

Participants at Winterthur ranged in age from 16 to 95-year-old Sepp Walker, who scored above average with his carbine.

Overall best marksman was Malcolm Cooper, Britain's double Olympic gold medalist in shooting.

His foreign passport barred him from becoming a "king," the title bestowed on the top finishers in the different categories of the competition.

Attention focused on the debut of the 5.56-millimetre model 90 automatic rifle, with which the army is replacing its

current 33-year-old version. Tests suggest that what Swiss newspapers described as a wonder weapon is of very high precision.

Demand for the private, non-automatic version, which sells for 2,350 francs (\$1,680), has outstripped supply. Delivery time is more than a month. So far more than 22,000 have been sold, compared with 30,000 delivered to the army.

"It's lighter and handier than the '57 model," said Zuercher. "That is one reason why there is increasing interest in marksmanship among women and girls. There is a definite trend."

One of the 3,400 female participants, 18-year-old Corinne Haas, turned in a better performance with the new rifle than two Swiss army generals.